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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, help us. Turn us back to the paths of integrity and faith. Be for our lawmakers a protecting rock of safety, rescuing them from the powers of evil. Help them to fix their hearts on You, trusting Your guidance and wisdom. May love for You be reflected in the ordering of their priorities as they seek to give You first place in every important decision. Lord, make them servants of Your purposes as they seek to increase the treasures of Your Kingdom. Satisfy the deepest longings of their hearts.

And, Lord, in these toxic and cacophonous times, bless America.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, small businesses are a very important part of the U.S. economy, so we want to recognize this week, marking the 57th anniversary of what we call National Small Business Week—proper recognition for a big part of the economy.

According to the most up-to-date government statistics, Iowa had 270,484 small businesses and 651,635 employees.

They account for 99-3/10th percent of businesses and 48-1/10th percent of the private workforce. Small businesses create jobs and export products around the world. Small businesses are the backbone of our communities, and I know this pandemic has really hit small businesses very, very hard.

I honor these hard-working Iowa entrepreneurs and, of course, their employees in celebrating the week of September 20th as National Small Business Week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

PROTESTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I have spoken repeatedly in recent months about the tragic killing of Breonna Taylor in my hometown of Louisville, the need for justice, and the healing work ahead for our community.

Kentucky's attorney general, Daniel Cameron, conducted exactly the kind of thorough and impartial investigation that justice demands. Yesterday, that chapter concluded, and the grand jury conducted the handoff to criminal prosecution. I have full confidence in the attorney general's painstaking pursuit of facts and justice.

Many Kentuckians have channeled their continuing grief and anger in a peaceful exercise of their First Amend-

ment rights. But in Louisville last night, we saw more of the lawlessness, riots, and violence that have plagued American cities too often this year. Citizens' businesses were vandalized, fires were set in the streets, and two officers of the Metro Police Department were shot and wounded while protecting public safety downtown. As of last night, one officer was still undergoing surgery, but both were in stable condition. We are praying that both will make full recoveries. One suspect is in custody.

Peaceful protests honor the memory of Breonna Taylor. Peaceful protests move us toward justice. Smashing windows does not. Setting fires does not. Rioting in the streets does not. Trying to gun down law enforcement officers who were bravely serving their community is the kind of despicable cowardice that must be met with the full force of the law.

I sincerely thank all the Kentucky peace officers who continue to put their lives on the line every single day. I hope and expect that our Governor and mayor will take every necessary step to secure the justice, peace, law, and order that every Kentuckian deserves.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now on an entirely different matter, President Trump has stated he will announce his nominee to the Supreme Court the day after tomorrow. We do not yet know which legal all-star from his list he will nominate, but strangely enough, we already do know exactly what the far left will start shouting the instant—the instant—she or he is introduced.

Isn't that a little curious, when you stop to think about it? A confirmation process is ostensibly about the qualifications and credentials of the nominee, so why is it that practically any citizen could sit down at their kitchen

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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table right now, days—days—before the nomination, and write down in advance the list of ludicrous accusations the far left has guaranteed to be screaming by Saturday night? It is because year after year, decade after decade, the far left's playbook stays exactly the same. To them, a nominee makes no difference. Every time in 45 years—45 years—that a Republican President has nominated someone to the Supreme Court, the exact same set of clichéd horror stories are wheeled out of storage, dusted off, and paraded past the American people.

In 1975, President Gerald Ford put forward a nominee whom the left blasted for his “consistent opposition to women's rights” and “an extraordinary lack of sensitivity to the problems women face.” Who was this far-right ideologue who was going to turn back the clock? Why, it was the late Justice John Paul Stevens, who went on to lead the Court's liberal wing for decades.

In 1987, it was time for an encore performance. A nominee from President Reagan was absolutely savaged by liberal groups. The president of one left-wing group insisted he was a “sexist” and “a disaster for women”—that would be Anthony Kennedy.

Once again, the sky did not fall. In fact, when Justice Kennedy retired in 2018, the new head of the exact same liberal organization stated they were “saddened and alarmed by his retirement.” The exact same liberal outfit said the sky was falling in the 1980s because Justice Kennedy had been nominated and that the sky was falling in 2018 because he was retiring.

In 1990, they got the band back together yet again. This time the sky was falling for sure. President Bush had picked someone whose record was “very troubling,” whose juris prudence would surely “threaten to undo the advances made by women, minorities, dissenters, and other disadvantaged groups,” whose confirmation would mean “ending freedom for women in this country.”

Talk about wearing out the volume knob. Oh, that was future Justice David Souter, by the way. One slogan simply said—listen to this: “Stop Souter or Women Will Die.” “Stop Souter or Women Will Die.” He, too, would go on to become a favorite Justice of many of the very same groups.

But it has still never occurred to them to get their crystal balls checked. The same unhinged attacks pour out every time, the same absurd scare tactics every single time.

These people are the far-left version of that broadcaster who spent 20 years predicting different dates for the end of the world, raising money, and just inventing a new date every time he was wrong.

Justice Scalia was unfit. Justice Thomas hated the rule of law. Justice Alito was “hostile to the rights of women.” It is all one big scam directed at the American people.

In 2005, one leftwing outfit cut a television ad that tried to link our now-Chief Justice of the United States with a violent bombing of an abortion clinic. Just how despicable can you get? Before this disgusting ad was pulled off the air, it said a future Justice John Roberts would “excuse violence against other Americans.” Chief Justice Roberts.

Every single time—no matter how upstanding, no matter how qualified, no matter their views, no matter their record—every nominee gets the same insane treatment, so long as the President who nominated them is not a Democrat—so long as the President who nominated them is not a Democrat.

Oh, but when Democrats nominate people, none of this happens. When we confirmed Justices Ginsburg and Breyer, I don't recall any angry mobs stalking Senators. When we confirmed Justice Sotomayor, I don't recall weeks of character assassination. When we confirmed Justice Kagan, I don't recall the mainstream media declaring the death of democracy.

For half a century we have seen this double standard. When a Democratic President makes a nomination, it is a nonevent by comparison. The coastal political class and their friends in the media allow our national life to go on like normal. But whenever a Republican dares to nominate someone, the same people declare it a state of emergency.

So, sadly, we already know what reaction we will see on Saturday: fill-in-the-blank opposition. Remember, in 2017, we saw literal fill-in-the-blank opposition. Demonstrators wanted to assemble outside the Court before they even knew who President Trump would name, so they literally brought stacks of signs that said: “Oppose (blank)!” And they brought markers so they could scribble in the name during the President's remarks before the TV cameras got to them.

In 2018, moments after the President announced now-Justice Kavanaugh, one leftwing group published a typically absurd statement declaring “Trump's announcement today is a death sentence”—“a death sentence”—and “white patriarchal supremacists now have free reign.”

The actual nominee was so irrelevant to their scam that they literally forgot to fill in the blank. The very first line of their press release condemned “Donald Trump's nomination of XX to the Supreme Court.”

So it is safe to say the American people can start writing their bingo cards right now. We already know every outlandish claim and unhinged attack we are going to hear.

In fact, former Vice President Biden has already cut to the front of the line. Just yesterday, he offered the following assessment prior to learning whom he was assessing: “Women's rights as it relates to everything from medical health care is going to be

gone.” This is former Vice President Biden yesterday. Good luck deciphering what he is trying to say. It sounds like more of the same old junk.

Perhaps the Nation will soon watch this man in his late seventies condescend to explain women's healthcare to one of the brilliant women whom President Trump indicates he is considering.

Fortunately, the far-left scam artists do not get a vote. The special interest groups' fundraising appeals do not get a vote. The fate of this nomination will be determined by the U.S. Senators whom the American people elected to do this job: a fair hearing, a fair process, and a fair vote on the actual nominee. Forget about fill-in-the-blank.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of my colleagues, the vote on the confirmation of the Young nomination will occur at 11:30 a.m. today.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the unfinished business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Roderick C. Young, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Our adversaries sow disinformation in our society and seek to influence our elections. Vladimir Putin will stop at nothing to diminish Western democracies. A resurgent China wants to take America's place on the world stage. But the gravest threat to our democracy right now does not come from any foreign capital; it comes from our own. The gravest threat to democracy in America is President Donald Trump.

Yesterday, at a news conference, President Trump refused to commit to the peaceful transfer of power should he lose the election in 41 days. Let me repeat that. Yesterday, at a news conference, President Trump refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power should he lose the election in 41 days. “Well, we're going to have to see what happens,” he said. “I've been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster.”

Pressed further, the President said: "Get rid of the ballots . . . there won't be a transfer, frankly. There will be a continuation."

"Get rid of the ballots . . . there won't be a transfer, frankly. There will be a continuation."

Those are all his words: Get rid of voting; get rid of the ballots. Just let him stay in power whatever illicit way he chooses to do so. That is what he is saying.

Now, everyone from school children to the most senior among us knows that the peaceful transfer of power is one of democracy's core attributes. There is no democracy without it. Like the rule of law, the separation of powers, checks and balances, everything we have learned that is great and noble about our system in government, President Trump has sullied, diminished, and now he threatens to actually dismantle. The greatest threat to American democracy right now is Donald Trump.

The President issued similar threats in the runup to the 2016 election, and he is doing it again now. If I win, the election is legitimate, argues the President, but if I lose, it is rigged. That is what he is saying now—again: If I win, the election is legitimate, but if I lose, it is rigged. By the way, I may just stay in office and not count the ballots.

Unbelievable.

The gravest threat to American democracy right now is President Trump. Save for a few, the Republican majority here in the Senate practically brushes by it: They don't know the full context. Oh, the President says crazy things. Maybe he was joking.

They are willing to continue ramming through a Supreme Court Justice whom the President said is needed "before the election . . . because [the election] will be before the United States Supreme Court."

Where are our Republican colleagues? This is not a partisan issue. Democracy is at stake. Every constituent from every corner of the land, regardless of party or ideology, should be asking the Republican Senators to speak out and demand that Donald Trump not be allowed to do what he says he is going to do and say they will join all of America in standing in the way if he tries.

The most innocent interpretation of the President's comments is that he is just trying to get people not to vote: Mail-in voting is "rigged." I am going to stay anyway, he cries. "Twelve more years," they chant at his rallies—all to erode American faith in the election and discourage Americans from voting. It doesn't matter how false, it doesn't matter how undemocratic, it doesn't matter how corrosive it is to our democracy, the President doesn't care. It is his own ego and nothing else. The President says it if he thinks it will help him win. That is the most innocent interpretation.

If you take the President at his word, he wants to throw out ballots, refuse

the peaceful transfer of power, and rush through a Supreme Court Justice to ensure that they could rule in his favor if the election is contested. That is him at his word.

According to a new article in *The Atlantic* magazine, some Republicans are actually considering a scheme to override the will of the voters in certain States. Under this nefarious scheme, if the President loses a State controlled by Republicans, they would ignore the result; they would ignore what the voters ask for and send a rival slate of electors to Washington instead, deliberately provoking a constitutional crisis.

Every American should read this article.

Mr. President, I refer my colleagues to this link for the article: <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/11/what-if-trump-refuses-concede/616424/>.

If you read these facts in a story about Belarus or Hungary, you might not bat an eye, but this is America. This is America. And here in America, our elections are sacrosanct. The peaceful transfer of power is our lifeblood. The rule of law is the very foundation of our society. These currents run deep in our veins and are far stronger than the flimsy authoritarianism of President Trump.

President Trump, you are not a dictator, and America will not permit you to be one. We will not permit you to be one.

This November, we will have an election. The votes will be counted. It may take a little longer than usual because so many people will vote by mail because of COVID, but the votes will be counted. There are numerous lawsuits making sure it happens, and those lawsuits are succeeding. The results of the election must be accepted. The peaceful transfer of power must follow. Otherwise, we will lose our democracy.

At this perilous moment, every Republican in this Chamber should stand up and say that a President who isn't entirely sure if he will commit to a peaceful transfer of power isn't a President at all. Stand up and say he is wrong and that you don't want to live in a country where he is right. Pledge to uphold the pillars of our country. If Republicans stand up and say this is wrong, that may—may—be able to sway this President or his followers from repeating these attacks.

And there is something every citizen can do, particularly those who are alarmed or discouraged by what President Trump said this week: Vote. The President cannot deny your right to vote. The answer to these naked threats to our democracy is more democracy: Vote.

Don't let Trump intimidate or discourage you. Vote. Vote like our democracy is on the line because it is.

Vote, vote, vote.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Madam President, in 2016, Leader McConnell and Senate Republicans

held a Supreme Court vacancy open for nearly a year on the supposed principle that "the American people should have a voice in [selecting] their next Supreme Court Justice."

Now, 41 days before a national election in which we might have a new President, Leader McConnell cannot even mention his supposed principle. In another speech on the floor today, he never mentioned it—never mentioned it. All the sophistry and diversionary arguments that are getting more and more like Trump don't undo the fact he totally reversed himself, and the American people know it, and the overwhelming majority of Americans want us to wait until a new President is elected before we choose a Supreme Court Justice.

Yesterday, the Presiding Officer confirmed that the Senate has never—never—confirmed a Supreme Court nominee this close to the election. Again, all the history, all the obfuscation, all the relevant facts don't deny it. Yesterday, the Presiding Officer of the Senate—a neutral figure who happened to be a Republican—confirmed that the Senate has never confirmed a Supreme Court nominee this close to the election. We hear a lot of talking points from the other side, some twisted readings of precedent. But facing a simple question—Has there been a Senate precedent confirming a Justice this close to an election between July and election day?—the Presiding Officer confirmed that "no such precedent exists."

Leader McConnell and the Republican majority are not following their supposed principle, and they are not following precedent. This is nothing more than an exercise in brute force.

It may very well destroy the already waning sense of comity and collegiality in the Senate, once hallmarks of this great Chamber. It may have done an end to it, unfortunately and sadly. And for what? Why do we go to such great lengths to ram through a Justice mere weeks before an election, making a complete mockery of their previous position? Because this is the only way for Republicans to achieve their radical rightwing agenda, which the public will abhor. Unable to get their legislative agenda passed through Congress, they have to rely on the courts to erode, bit by bit, the rights the American people now enjoy.

Republicans would say: That is not true. They are hysterical. They are just speculating, trying to scare voters.

But this is what the President has said. He wants to nominate a Justice who will "terminate" the Affordable Care Act. His administration is suing in court, right now, to invalidate the law—a case that will be heard 1 week after the election, a case that could rip away healthcare from tens of millions of Americans in the middle of a pandemic, and Leader McConnell says this is "hysterical." Go tell a mother or father whose son or daughter has

cancer and they can't get insurance because they no longer have the protection that it is hysterical. Shame.

This is real stuff, and this is not speculation. There is a suit before the Supreme Court right now on this issue.

Speculation? Was it not President Trump who said that women should be punished for having an abortion? Was it not the Republican majority who confirmed the majority of judges to the Federal bench with disturbing views on a woman's right to choose? Was it not the Republican leader who has admitted that he hopes to "pick away" at women's rights through the courts?

What about workers' rights? What about voting rights? The Supreme Court, even with Justice Ginsburg, slowly eroded workers' rights in the Janus case and voter rights in the Shelby County case, opening the door for a flood of voter suppression efforts.

Imagine—just imagine, America—what another rightwing Justice, a solid 6-to-3 majority would mean for a Court that has already eroded your rights?

This is not speculation. Oh, no. This is about every right and freedom that Americans hold dear. It is no wonder that President Trump and Senate Republicans are afraid to test this in an election and are so eager to rush this nomination through.

BREONNA TAYLOR

Madam President, yesterday, a grand jury in Kentucky declined to charge three officers in the shooting of Breonna Taylor. One was indicted on minor charges of wanton endangerment. The other two will face no charges at all.

Today, I and millions and millions of Americans grieve for the family of Breonna Taylor, knowing that justice will not be served in the murder of their daughter. The fact that an African-American woman can have her life taken while she sleeps in her own bed and those responsible are not held accountable is a harrowing reminder that something is very, very broken in our system. It is another reminder that we are in desperate need of comprehensive policing reform.

A few months ago, in the aftermath of George Floyd's death, Senate Democrats introduced the Justice in Policing Act. It would ban no-knock warrants in Federal drug cases. It was the no-knock warrants that hurt—that killed—Breonna Taylor. It would ban choke holds, and it would make it easier for Americans to hold police departments accountable when they violate their civil and constitutional rights. The House passed this important bill in June.

Here in the Senate, Leader McCONNELL, typically, refused to take it up at all. But we will not stop fighting until we finally bring that lasting change that our Nation needs, change that protesters, civil rights organizations, and the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor are still, tragically, waiting for.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, in 2002, 18 years ago, Senator Tom Daschle raised a similar resolution—a resolution on the importance of the Pledge of Allegiance. With unanimous support in the U.S. Senate, it passed on the floor uneventfully and without amendment. This body can choose to do the same today—to reaffirm our support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

I also rise to honor a Hoosier who understood the innate value of the Pledge of Allegiance to civic education.

In 1969, Red Skelton, an American comedian and entertainer who was well known for his program on CBS, "The Red Skelton Hour," wrote a speech on the importance of the pledge. In reflecting on his time in Vincennes, IN, he wanted to talk about how important the value instilled by it is still applicable today. After the performance of his speech, CBS received 200,000 requests for copies. His speech would go on to be sold as a single by Columbia Records and performed at the White House. I think it would be an honor to repeat this, and I will do so after yielding the floor to my colleague, Senator SCOTT from Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. First of all, I thank my colleague, my friend from Indiana, for his absolute commitment of trying to make an impact on what is going on in Washington. We both came up here at the same time, and I have enjoyed working with him every day.

I had the opportunity to pursue the American dream. I got involved in politics because I saw that dream slipping away for far too many. All Americans should have their shots at living their versions of the American dream.

For me, I grew up poor. I never met my biological father. My adopted father was a busdriver, with only a sixth grade education, who did all four combat jumps with the 82nd Airborne in World War II. We lived in public housing. Even though my mom had no money, she was optimistic and hopeful. She told us we were blessed because God and our Founders created the greatest country ever, where anything was possible.

Unfortunately, the left has worked hard over the last 50 years to discredit the values of the America I was raised with and the values of the America I want my grandchildren to grow up with. Central to those values is faith and family. The Pledge of Allegiance explicitly acknowledges that our Creator is central to this American experiment. Unfortunately, the left is trying to undo the foundational principles of this country.

The left railed against our soldiers during the Vietnam war and is calling to defund our law enforcement. The

left discredits those who believe in a supreme being or the commitment of marriage, and it doesn't place value in family. The left doesn't care about our enormous debt and pushes for socialism. The left thinks it is OK that our schools don't teach about the Founding Fathers or free markets and wants you to think America was never great.

We all acknowledge that Americans, our country, and our institutions have flaws, but the left has worked to discredit our Founders, our institutions, our churches, our law enforcement, our morals, and almost everything my mom taught me. Yet we join today to honor the Pledge of Allegiance, the very spirit of our Nation—"one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." That is the America I, along with my colleagues here, are fighting for.

The values that I grew up with—the ones my "tough love" mom taught me—are becoming a way of the past, but I believe these values, these virtues, can and should be part of our country's future.

I love it when my grandchildren pray before eating, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, ask to visit military museums, thank police officers and soldiers for their service, and place their hands over their hearts when they hear the national anthem. I hope they memorize the Declaration of Independence and the 23rd Psalm.

We will not give up on the American dream and a nation where anything is possible. We will not let the radical left take away our freedom and opportunity.

Again, I thank Senator BRAUN for leading this effort today. Freedom is fleeting and worth fighting for, and we will not stop fighting for the country I was raised in because that is the country our children and our grandchildren deserve.

I yield to Senator BRAUN.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I thank Senator SCOTT. The emphasis on faith, family, community, freedom, liberty, and equal opportunity is what makes this country great. We can never forget it, for it is embedded in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I return now to reading the point of view from Red Skelton. This is in terms of his recollection when he was a kid back in Vincennes, IN.

He begins:

I heard, I think, one of the most outstanding speeches I have ever heard in my life. I think it compares with the "Sermon on the Mount," Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," and Socrates' speech to the students.

We had just finished reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he [Mr. Laswell, the principal of Vincennes High School] called us all together, and he says, "Uh, boys and girls, I have been listening to you recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester, and it seems that it has become monotonous to you. Or, could it be, you do not understand the meaning of each word? If I may, I would like to recite the pledge, and give you a definition for each word."

I saw this many years ago myself, and when I looked at the video again, I

thought it would behoove everyone to listen to his own words back when he did it on CBS.

I—Me; an individual, a committee of one.
Pledge—Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance—My love and my devotion.
To the Flag—Our standard, “Old Glory”; a symbol of courage. And wherever she waves, there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts “Freedom is everybody’s job.”

of the United—That means we have all come together.

States—Individual communities that have united into 48 great states; 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided by imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common cause, and that’s love of country—

Of America.
And to the Republic—A Republic: A sovereign state in which power is invested into the representatives chosen by the people to govern; and the government is the people, and it’s from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands.
One Nation—Meaning “so blessed by God.”
[Under God]
Indivisible—Incapable of being divided.

With liberty—Which is freedom; the right of power for one to live his [or her] own life without fears, threats, or any sort of retaliation.

And Justice—The principle and qualities of dealing fairly with others.

For All—That means, boys and girls, it’s as much your country as it is mine.

Afterward, Mr. Laswell asked his students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance together, with a newfound appreciation and reinvigoration for the words: “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Mr. Skelton concluded his speech by saying:

Since I was a small boy, two States have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: “Under God.” Wouldn’t it be a pity if someone said, “That is a prayer”—and that be eliminated from our schools, too?

Just as those students that day, Mr. Red Skelton included, recommitted to the meaning of the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, I call upon the U.S. Senate to recommit to the meaning of these words.

There are times today that the words of the pledge are tossed around without too much care. Other times, they are altered to remove what today is deemed offensive or antiquated, but Americans should not misuse or abuse the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge is meant to remind Americans of our guiding principles and inspire adherence to those ideas which make our country great: equality under the law and recognized rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 715, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 715) expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BRAUN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 715) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

Mr. BRAUN. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I just want to say how much I appreciate the resolution of the Senator from Indiana. It reminds me of discussions I know all of us have had about the teaching of American history and civics in our schools and, frankly, a collective concern that our children are being raised and educated without learning both about our founding principles and how unique we are as a nation. I think, as modest a step as this may seem, it is an important one, and I congratulate our friend from Indiana for taking it.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Madam President, in a letter to our Democratic colleagues earlier this week, my friend, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, pointed out the vastly different treatment of Supreme Court nominees by the respective political parties.

He wrote: “Compare the treatment of Robert Bork, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Brett Kavanaugh to that of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan, and it’s clear that there already is one set of rules for a Republican president and another set of rules for a Democrat president.”

This double standard is not just fiction or our imagination at play. Two years ago, we saw the outrageous smear campaign that our Democratic colleagues waged against Justice Brett Kavanaugh and his family. I have noted that it is not just enough to defeat a nomination; they actually were out to destroy his reputation.

While I hope it is something no nominee will have to endure again, I worry that history will repeat itself. The President has yet to even announce his nominee for the Supreme Court for the vacancy created by the death of Justice Ginsburg, but our Democratic colleagues are already reflexively taking potshots at potential nominees.

One of those potential nominees is Judge Amy Coney Barrett, who is a well-respected Federal judge with an impressive background as a legal scholar. While serving on the Seventh Circuit, Judge Barrett has shown that she will faithfully and impartially apply the law to cases and controversies before her, but in the eyes of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, her stellar resume has one glaring flaw—her strong Catholic faith.

During Judge Barrett’s confirmation hearing for her current position on the circuit court, the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary asked Judge Barrett if she could separate her religious beliefs from her legal duties, saying: “The dogma lives loudly within you, and that’s a concern.”

During my time in the Senate, I don’t recall any similar application of a religious test to a nominee or such intrusive questions about how their faith might impact their abilities to carry out the duty of a Justice. But, apparently, some on the other side of the aisle believe that a Christian woman is unable to separate her religious beliefs from her role on the bench. Yet, again, there is a different standard for nominees of a Republican President. But the Constitution provides that “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.” In other words, it is unconstitutional to impose a religious test on a nominee or on any person who holds public office.

Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues’ efforts to destroy conservative nominees are getting more and more outrageous—false accusations, religious tests, and threats to upend institutions, like packing the Court. It is terrifying to imagine what might come next.

In 2016, the American people elected President Trump knowing the type of nominees he would send us because he advertised and released a list of potential nominees to the Supreme Court were he elected.

At the same time, the American people also reelected a Senate majority committed to supporting the President’s nominees to the Federal bench. On both counts, we delivered, first, with the confirmation of Justice Gorsuch and, then, with the confirmation of Justice Kavanaugh.

We are once again prepared to deliver on our promise to the American people and to consider another highly qualified jurist to the Supreme Court. We will not rush this process. My colleagues and I on the Judiciary Committee will do our job and thoroughly examine the nominee, just as we would any other nominee to the Court.

Then, every single Member of the Senate will have the chance to debate and vote for or against that nominee right here on the Senate floor. This confirmation will be as thorough as it always has been, but my hope is that this time it will also be civil, and that

the threats and religious tests end today.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Madam President, on another matter, I have the great honor of representing nearly 29 million Texans, roughly 40 percent of whom are Hispanic. I consider myself fortunate to have experienced the tremendous influence of the Hispanic community on our country and on our culture. Much of that culture, of course, dates back to a time long before the Lone Star flag or the American flag flew over Texas.

The first sovereign flag planted on Texas soil was Spanish, and that sprawling Spanish colony extended all the way to modern-day Chile. When Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, it won all of Texas as well, and when Texas fought for its independence, soldiers of Mexican and European descent stood together on the Texas side in support of an independent republic.

It is unfair to say that Hispanic culture has influenced Texas because, in reality, Hispanic culture is as much a part of our State's foundation as the ground that our cities are built on.

Today, Texas is home to more than 11.5 million Hispanic Americans, some who have lived there for generations and others who have contributed to the recent rapid growth of the population of the Lone Star State. Since 2010, the Hispanic population has grown by more than 2 million people in my State, and the positive impact of Latinos across our State continues to grow.

Every year, during this month in particular, I am proud to join millions of my fellow Texans in celebrating the heritage that is uniquely woven into the fabric of our State and our Nation. During Hispanic Heritage Month, which officially commenced last week, we honor and celebrate Hispanic and Latino Americans and the traditions and contributions these men and women and those who came before them have made to our country.

For the past 12 years, I have joined our colleague Senator MENENDEZ from New Jersey and a number of other bipartisan cosponsors in introducing a resolution to formally recognize September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. It is a time we take to honor Latinos who, for generations, have served in our military, held elected office, grown small businesses, and fought in big and small ways to make our country better.

Today, Texas is proud to have incredible Hispanic-American leaders who are shaping our States' and our Nation's futures and inspiring the next generation. At the highest levels of public service in my State, we have incredible leaders like Ruth Hughs, our secretary of State, and Justice Eva Guzman, the first Hispanic woman to serve on the Texas Supreme Court.

Our communities are learning from inspiring women like Sister Norma Pimentel, who is executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande

Valley and led the creation of the respite center in McAllen to help care for migrants coming across our border.

They are seeing the incredible work of organizations like Buckner International, led by Dr. Albert Reyes, which has set up hope centers around the world that help families become self-sufficient.

Entrepreneurs are looking to business leaders like my friend Ramiro Cavazos, who is president and CEO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. For more than 40 years, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber has been an incredible resource for Hispanic business owners across the State, and their advocacy has been invaluable, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. Earlier this summer, I was able to virtually connect with U.S. Hispanic Chamber members across Texas to discuss the relief provided by Congress in four major pieces of legislation, as well as to learn more about the challenges that they were facing and what more we might be able to do.

I have also been able to speak with Hispanic healthcare leaders, who are instrumental in Texas's fight against this virus.

Over the summer, we saw a dramatic increase in positive cases and fatalities in the Rio Grande Valley, which is predominantly Hispanic. Last month I visited the valley for conversations with local officials and healthcare leaders about the impact of the Federal CARES Act funding that we passed in four separate pieces of legislation, as well as the hurdles they continue to have and are fighting to overcome.

During our discussion, I heard from Hispanic leaders in the healthcare industry, like Manny Vela, who is the CEO of Valley Baptist Health System, and Cris Rivera, who is CEO of the Rio Grande Regional Hospital.

Strong leadership at the local level has never been more important, and I am grateful for those who are continuing to help our communities through this crisis.

For nearly a century, our State has also benefited from the work of the League of United Latin American Citizens, otherwise known as LULAC, which is led by Domingo Garcia, and for years has benefited from the leadership of Laredo native Roger Rocha. LULAC fights to improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans, particularly when it comes to education, and it is an avid supporter of Hispanic-serving institutions.

Last week the Senate passed a resolution Senator MENENDEZ and I introduced to honor these institutions, which are helping Hispanic students achieve their dreams through a quality education. Despite the fact that these colleges and universities only represent 17 percent of nonprofits colleges and universities, they enroll two-thirds of all Latino students, totaling more than 2.5 million students nationwide.

Texas is home to 100 Hispanic-serving institutions, more or less, and these

colleagues and universities are helping to prepare the next generation of leaders for our future. This month is the perfect opportunity to celebrate their incredible work and acknowledge the important role these institutions play in my State and in our country, and I am glad this resolution passed with unanimous support.

I hope we can also pass legislation I introduced to honor the contributions of Hispanic Americans for generations to come.

When Americans of all ages visit Washington, they are able to learn the stories of great Americans through the Smithsonian museums, which welcomed more than 22 million visitors last year. These museums house priceless pieces of American history, from the Star-Spangled Banner, which inspired the national anthem, to the hat that President Lincoln wore on the night he was assassinated.

Unfortunately, these museums don't represent the diversity of the American story, but that is slowly changing. In recent decades, the Smithsonian Institution family has grown to include the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

But it is time for another addition. More than a decade ago, in 2008, President Bush signed into law the National Museum of the American Latino Commission Act to study how to establish a new museum. The results of that study found that the Latino representation within the Smithsonian Institution is far from what it should be and challenged us to provide their story and to make sure it is represented there.

I am thinking of the U.S. Latino community as a whole, which numbers some 60 million people, but I am also thinking of individual men and women—people like Juan Seguin, who, in some ways, was a predecessor of mine. He came from Mexican descent and helped lead the Texas Revolution. Then he was a Texas senator before Texas even joined the Union. So in many ways, he was one of the forefathers of my State, and his contributions, like so many others, are an important part of our multifaceted American story.

We need to ensure that every American has the opportunity to learn about people like Juan Seguin and the countless other Latinos who have played pivotal roles in our history. Last year, Senator MENENDEZ and I reintroduced a bill with a bipartisan group of Senators which would authorize the Smithsonian Institution to create a museum honoring American Latinos here in Washington. This has been a work in progress since 2003, and this legislation will finally put that into motion.

The bill passed the House unanimously this summer, and between the House and Senate, we have more than 340 bipartisan cosponsors.

The time has come to turn the dream of this museum into reality. There is

no better time than Hispanic Heritage Month for that to happen.

Texas and our entire Nation are stronger, smarter, and more inclusive because of the contributions of Hispanics over the generations.

I am glad to spend this month reflecting on our complex and ever-evolving American story, and celebrating the contributions of Hispanic Americans who have helped shape our Nation's history.

I hope the Senate will honor Hispanic Heritage Month by passing this important legislation to finally give Latino history a brick-and-mortar home here in Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO AMY AMRHEIN

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, Senators come to this floor with greatly diverse life experiences and political theories and representing enormously different States. But we all share this in common: a vast appreciation of our team members, our staff, who enable us to do our work as U.S. Senators on behalf of our own States, but also on behalf of the Nation.

These team members are not just staff. They are family. We share in moments of joy—marriage, the birth of a child. We grieve with them in those life moments that are so difficult. And when the team members choose to move on, it is a bittersweet moment.

I come to the floor today to recognize and pay tribute to a beloved member of my team, Amy Amrhein, who in just a few short days will be leaving us to a well-deserved retirement. Even after knowing for months that this day was coming, it is still hard for me not to be saddened by her departure. She has been on my team from the very beginning of my time as a Senator, serving as my field representative in Southern Oregon and staffing our Medford office. That is now a dozen years.

She took on the task of learning complicated natural resource issues and learning them with determination and insight, working to internalize the issues and challenges of every community in the region, from the smallest port to the biggest county.

She mastered the art of putting on a townhall, as I do one in every county every year, and I think at last count that is about 80 townhalls she has conducted over the years.

She has worked to bring the community together to discuss visions for the future. One of those was the potential expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument. She organized a gathering that gave public testimony, which helped share insights from all the stakeholders. Local leaders and regional Tribes and all members of the public shared their insights and perspectives.

It is no exaggeration to say that there are few people in the world with a better grasp of the complicated water issues in the Klamath Basin. We have a saying in the West that “whiskey, that’s for drinking; water, that’s for fighting” because it is so essential to so many aspects of our economy and our natural system.

For 12 years, Amy engaged in shuttle diplomacy over long-term solutions to water shortages. She found ways to help farmers and ranchers save their livelihoods through shattering droughts, truly making herself an indispensable facilitator to stakeholders across the board and an indispensable facilitator as I tried to work out agreements. That really came in handy with the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, developing that effort to have the stakeholders share a common vision for the future. It really came in handy when we worked to get funds to address the devastating droughts in 2010 and 2013—funds that would help the farmers who depended on irrigation but had no water to be able to temporarily, for a season, retire their water rights and therefore have some income for their ranch or their farm or be able to have money to pump groundwater to compensate for the lack of irrigation water during those drought years.

One of the issues has been the water quality in the Klamath Basin and the competing environmental rules regarding the river and the lake, and a piece of that is the survival of two endangered species. So she helped to put all the details together to hold the Sucker Science Summit, which brought together again the farmers, ranchers, Tribes, scientists, local government officials, and Federal officials to devise a plan for the long-term survival of the C’waam and Koptu suckerfish in the Klamath Basin.

There is no doubt that Southern Oregon could not have asked for a better advocate over these past 12 years. I have appreciated her diligence, her humor, her positive attitude, and her candor about our smart political tactics or policy tactics and our mistakes. I could share some of those stories, but perhaps they are better shared through the eyes of our fellow team members, so I will read some of their comments.

The first goes as follows:

Amy is the definition of dedication. No one can out work her. She is committed and she will keep asking questions and pushing buttons until she makes progress on an issue. She is fearless. She has been such a great leader and mentor for not only the field team, but the entire state staff. I’m so grateful for the opportunity to learn from her. Oregon is a better place to live because of her service and she will be dearly missed.

A second team member expressed this:

When I think of Amy I think about her fearlessness. A distant field rep’s job is really challenging—[the rep] is the face and the voice of the Senator and you are all alone, far from DC, even far from Portland. Despite all our communications breakthroughs you are still all by yourself, driving remote high-

ways, walking into rooms full of strangers, never knowing what is going to be thrown at you. They want a Senator, and instead they get you. Amy was open about her questions and concerns, but once she was out there and on her own, we always had confidence she would do and say the right thing.

A third team member said this:

No surprise that she is leaving behind big shoes. She makes covering some of the largest counties and most difficult issues in the state look easy. Her knowledge of the issues run deep and her contacts in counties is impressive. When you ask about a county, she’ll give you the breakdown of all her contacts: who would give me straight answers and who has the juicy county political/social gossip. She has also been a great mentor to those in the field. I am pretty sure she has walked every one of us through our first town halls, roundtables and site visits. She was someone you could rely on to give you feedback and let you know if you were on the right path.

The final comment from a team member:

I would just say that every time I have ever come into contact with a community leader or elected official that has worked with Amy, no matter the political party, they absolutely love her. She has done so much for the Southern Oregon communities. Just a beautiful human who has worked incredibly hard over the last decade-plus to help rural Oregonians. She is funny, kind, and blunt—always tells you like it is. I cannot reiterate enough how imperative her mentorship has been. She is a wealth of knowledge and experience that can’t be replaced.

I certainly could not have said it better, so I appreciate the team members who contributed those thoughts.

On behalf of myself and the entire team, thank you, Amy Amrhein, for all you have done for our team, for all you have done for the State, and for all you have done for so many constituents, working on so many complex and difficult issues. You are going to be deeply missed by the entire team but by me most of all. It is the wish of the entire team that you will have a joyous, healthy retirement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Young nomination?

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted yea.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 194 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hassan	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kennedy	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Smith
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Loeffler	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	Markey	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	McSally	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Enzi	Murphy	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murray	Wicker
Feinstein	Paul	Wyden
Fischer	Perdue	Young

NAYS—2

Blumenthal Schumer

NOT VOTING—5

Capito	Johnson	Sanders
Harris	Moran	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021 AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 552, H.R. 8337.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 552, H.R. 8337, a bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to devastate our public health and our economy, it is far past time that we reach agreement on another relief package that is so desperately needed. It will require good-faith negotiations on both sides of the aisle, not just saying no and turning the tragedy of 200,000 COVID deaths into a partisan political issue.

For my part, I believe there should be nine elements in the bill. First,

there should be an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program, known as PPP. This is a program that I crafted with Senators MARCO RUBIO, JEANNE SHAHEEN, and BEN CARDIN to provide forgivable loans to our small businesses so that they could pay their employees.

I am pleased to report that, in my State, 28,000 small businesses—that is nearly three out of four of our small businesses—have taken advantage of \$2.3 billion in forgivable loans, sustaining 250,000 jobs. It has truly made a difference. Now we need to do a second round of PPP for the hardest hit businesses, those for whom the first PPP loan was the lifeline but they need additional help.

So we have set a revenue test such that, if your revenue is 35 percent below what it was in an equivalent quarter last year, you would qualify for another PPP loan. In addition, those who have never received a first PPP loan could apply under the initial rules. This would make a difference in keeping our small businesses afloat, particularly those in the tourism industry that have been so hard hit, and ensuring that their employees will still have jobs.

Second, we need to provide aid to our schools. I have talked to superintendents all over the State of Maine, and I have visited schools in Hollis and Houlton. I have seen firsthand the enormous investments they have had to make in order to reopen the schools safely or adapt to a hybrid model, depending on where the location is and the incidence of COVID-19.

In one school that I visited, they have replaced all of the round tables around which the elementary schoolchildren would usually be working with desks lined up. It reminds me of when I went to elementary school because that was the style of teaching back then.

They are sanitizing and deep-cleaning the schools. They are trying to figure out what to do with the little toys that are used to teach children how to count: How do they sanitize them? Or do they get each child his or her own set of toys to place in individual bins?

They are cutting new doors into the nurse's office so that no longer will ill children or staffers have to go through the front office. They are putting up plexiglass shields. They are adding additional bus routes in order to safely separate the children.

These changes cost a lot of money, and it is one reason why, in addition to providing direct aid to our schools, we need to provide assistance to our States, our counties, and our communities.

I have talked to city and town managers all over the State of Maine. They did not receive much from the initial allocation of funding that went to State governments, and they need help now.

Let me give you an example. The city of Auburn has had to freeze six vacant

positions because of expected revenue losses. That is two firefighters, a police officer, and three public works employees. These cuts come as the city of Auburn has spent \$200,000 in new expenses responding to the virus.

I have yet to talk to a city or a town manager who is not experiencing the need due to similar cuts and who experienced delayed or canceled public works projects, like paving local roads. That has a trickle-down effect. It affects the contractor and his or her employees, who will no longer have that work. It affects their suppliers from whom the concrete or the tar is no longer going to be purchased.

This is why I feel strongly that the bipartisan SMART Act, which I worked on with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, led by Senator CASSIDY and Senator MENENDEZ, needs to be passed. We can negotiate exactly how much money and exactly to whom it should go, but it is essential that aid go to the community level.

Fourth, we need to help our airlines. Otherwise, come October 1—just right around the corner—we are going to see massive layoffs. We are talking about between 80,000 and 100,000 layoffs of airline employees and also related jobs in airports, such as concessionaires. It will also lead to canceled service, if there are no longer crews for airplanes and ground crews. We are going to lose airline service to communities all over this country.

We need not to forget the motor coach industry, which few people are talking about. They have been hurt by the cancellation of everything from school sports to tours. We need to help them survive this period of economic struggle. Senator JACK REED and I have introduced a bill with more than 40 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle that would provide that assistance.

No. 6, we need to continue investing in testing. That is key to reopening our economy and safely housing people in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

I am excited by the new Abbott Labs test, which will cost only \$5 and give a result in 15 minutes. I take particular pride because Abbott Labs has a large facility in my State, and they are expanding from Scarborough to Westbrook in order to produce these tests more rapidly.

No. 7, we need to provide limited but important liability protections to our frontline hospital workers, to our small businesses, and to our schools and colleges.

One restaurant owner put it this way to me. He said: Susan, what if I get sued despite taking every precaution, following the CDC guidelines, but a customer comes in, later develops the coronavirus, and sues me, saying, I think I got it in that restaurant. Well, I am pretty sure that he didn't, but I still have to pay to defend that lawsuit?

Clearly we should not protect anyone who is guilty of gross negligence, but

that is not what we are talking about here.

No. 8, we need to provide a reasonable Federal unemployment insurance supplement to help struggling families during this difficult time when so many people have lost jobs through no fault of their own, but we need to make sure that we are not creating a disincentive to return to work when jobs reopen. That is why I like the approach of either having an 80-percent replacement of the pre-job-loss wage or figuring out a formula that would approach 80 percent. That is far higher than the normal wage replacement under our State systems, but these are extraordinary times.

No. 9, we need an emergency appropriation for the U.S. Postal Service. Otherwise, I am worried that the Postal Service will not be able to meet its payroll starting the second quarter of next year. Think of the costs the Postal Service has incurred. It has had to retrofit every post office, every processing center in this country, as well as provide protective gear to its postal employees who are both essential and frontline workers.

Those are the elements that I believe should be in the next coronavirus package. While there are disagreements on perhaps three of the nine elements that I have suggested, by and large, there is agreement on seven of the elements. There may be disputes about exactly how much money should be appropriated, but we can work those disputes out, just as we do in the appropriations process.

We simply cannot wait and do nothing and just hope for the best. Hope is not an effective strategy when it comes to dealing with this persistent pandemic. The American people have demonstrated resilience, courage, and compassion during this crisis, but they need our additional help.

I hope that next week we will put aside the partisan bickering, the “just say no” approach that we have seen, unfortunately, from the Democratic leader, and that we will come together for the good of the American people; that we will come together not as Democrats and Republicans and Independents but as Americans to do what our country needs done right now.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant senior legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a daughter of New York and an American giant. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an icon, a legend, and a role model for so many people, myself included. We may never

see a jurist with her kind of courage again in our lifetimes.

The daughter of an immigrant furrier and Garment District bookkeeper, born and raised in Brooklyn, she pushed back against every expectation and limitation that society had for her and rose to the bench of the highest Court in the land. She was a brilliant legal mind, an unparalleled jurist, an opera fan, fearless dissenter, and the “Notorious RBG.”

Justice Ginsburg spent her whole life fighting against injustices, those she faced personally and those she could not abide in society.

When Ruth Bader Ginsburg went to law school, she was one of just 9 women in her class of 500. She graduated at the top of her class but was rejected by law firm after law firm because she was a woman and because she was a mother. Undaunted, she found a different path to success.

She educated generations of law students at Rutgers and Columbia and spent her time outside the classroom at the ACLU, becoming an architect of the plan to eradicate gender discrimination. One strategically chosen case at a time, she proved to a male-dominated legal system that discrimination on the basis of sex is real. She was a trailblazer. She took herself to places that few women had ever been, and she took the law to places it had never been.

She stood for all of us. She stood against discrimination in all its forms. She was someone who fundamentally understood the gifts that people have to give to this country regardless of one's sex, one's gender orientation, one's race, or one's background.

She knew that the words etched in stone above the entrance of the Supreme Court—“Equal Justice Under Law”—were still a goal, not a given, and she fought to make them a reality every day of her life.

As has been noted, in the Jewish tradition, only those of great righteousness die on Rosh Hashanah—because God determined that they were needed until the end. Justice Ginsburg was truly someone of great righteousness, and at the very end, she left us with one final message: “My most fervent wish is that I not be replaced until a new president is installed.”

She asked us to respect the right of the American people to be heard, but within just hours of her passing, that wish was denied by Members of this body.

The hypocrisy of my colleagues is breathtaking. The same Members rushing this process are the very same ones who denied Merrick Garland hearings because his nomination was supposedly too close to an election. He was nominated in March. It is nearly October. This election is not just close. It is already happening. People across the country are already casting their ballots. Yet this is about more than rank hypocrisy. Let's look at what is really at stake.

The first case that will be argued in November will decide if 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions will continue to have access to affordable healthcare. Think about that. My Republican colleagues are rushing through the confirmation of a judge in order to nearly guarantee that 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions will see their premiums go up or have their healthcare ripped away entirely. That would be inhumane at any time, but in the middle of a pandemic, it is truly unthinkable.

They are rushing to vote on a Justice who will decide the fate of more than 640,000 DACA recipients who have known no other home, no other country, but this one.

They seek to confirm a judge who will revoke the rights of 50 percent of the population to make decisions about their own bodies and their reproductive healthcare.

This new judge could very well overturn recently decided cases that have finally granted same-sex couples the fundamental right to marry the persons whom they love.

This new judge will likely decide on the Nation's ability to conduct a fair and accurate census and the right of every person in this country to have equal representation under the law.

It is clear to me why our colleagues are rushing this. They fear that the American people simply don't agree with their views. They fear that this is their last chance to impose an ultra-conservative view on our country, in which women's rights, LGBTQ rights, and immigrants' rights take a back seat to corporate interests and discrimination. That is not what the American people want. They should get the chance to have their say. Their ability to access healthcare, to marry, to live in this country, and to be represented fairly and fully by this government is on the line. Their rights hang in the balance.

The actions of my colleagues deny the people a voice. What does that say about this Chamber? What does it say about our democracy?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENDING THE UNDERTAKING SPAM, SPYWARE, AND FRAUD ENFORCEMENT WITH ENFORCERS BEYOND BORDERS ACT OF 2006

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4779 and that

the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4779) to extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, this bill, H.R. 4779, "To extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006," would reauthorize the U.S. SAFE WEB Act, which is an important tool for the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and take action against the scams, robocalls, and fraud that may span international borders. It would save consumers the hardship and heartbreak, financial pain, and emotional travail of fraud, scams, and robocalls that may have international implications and impacts.

The SAFE WEB Act has been reauthorized on a bipartisan basis over many years. I am pleased to cooperate and collaborate with Senator MORAN of Kansas, who is a great partner in consumer protection and this effort and is the chairman of the subcommittee on which I am the ranking member.

We all know that fraud spawned by foreign criminal organizations, as well as domestic ones, has caused significant harm to consumers here. Therefore, this measure will provide the tools that are essential to the FTC in protecting consumers and in enforcing the law.

I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4779) was passed.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in a few moments we are going to vote on the

motion to proceed to H.R. 8337, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021 and Other Extensions Act of 2020.

I will speak a little bit about what is in there, but I will urge all Members to vote aye.

The bill provides funding for the government through December 11 at fiscal year 2020 funding levels. It will be under the same terms and conditions contained in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations laws. These were the laws that Chairman SHELBY and I brought to the floor and have been voted on.

It includes several authorization matters to extend programs that otherwise would expire, including some important health and veteran programs.

So as vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I support the bill, but I am disappointed that it is needed at all.

As I have said many times, we had ample—ample time in the Senate to complete our work on the 12 appropriations bills, but we didn't mark up a single one. In June, July, we could have passed all 12 of them, but the majority leader wouldn't even bring up a single one of them.

Apparently, he is more interested in confirming extreme rightwing judges than moving legislation to address the needs of the American people, including appropriations bills or critical legislation to combat the COVID virus and its impact on families and the economy.

I chuckle, too, in a way ruefully because, of course, my friends on the other side—especially if there is a Democratic administration—say they must follow the Thurman rule, named after their revered former President pro tempore from the Republican side, that you cannot have any confirmations after the first of July. But, of course, they have forgotten their own Republican rule when they have a Republican President. We all know the facts on that, but I think what the American people have to understand is that because of the time we spent on that, because of the refusal to even allow 1—even 1—of the 12 appropriations bills to come up for a vote and allow everybody to either vote for it or against it—and with Republicans having a majority, if they didn't like anything in it, they could vote it down. But saying that, no, we want to talk about it, but we are kind of afraid to actually have to vote on it—I don't know why we are afraid to vote. That is what we get elected to do.

I have cast over 16,000 votes in this body. Actually, I was told today that is more than all but 1 of the nearly 2,000 Senators who have served here.

But what we have done is we have conceded we can't do our most basic job of completing appropriations bills on time, and in doing that, we have failed to address an unprecedented health and economic crisis for months.

Last week more than 870,000 Americans filed for unemployment benefits for the first time. It is not 870,000

Americans who have filed in the past; this is 870,000 Americans filing for unemployment benefits for the first time. That is because of this pandemic.

Kitchen cabinets across the country are bare as families struggle without enough to eat. Schools do not have enough resources to teach our children at home or protect them inside the classroom.

This is infuriating. I think Senator SHELBY and I could have gotten those 12 bills. On some parts of them, some would vote for it; some would vote against it. But we were ready to vote back in June and July. In the meantime, we now have 200,000 Americans who have died, and we have yet to vote.

I am afraid that what the President wants to do—and my friends on the Republican side—is cast aside the desperate needs of the American people in favor of government on autopilot.

Apparently, right now, they are more concerned with securing a hyperpartisan Supreme Court than the health and safety of the American people and are doing the most basic job of Congress. It is that simple.

I will have more to say about the continuing resolution in the coming days as we move forward toward final passage. But the last thing our country needs is a government shutdown in the middle of a global pandemic and an unprecedented economic crisis.

I regret that leadership would not allow us to vote on these appropriations bills because I am convinced we would have had enough Republicans and Democrats who would have come together and passed all 12 of them if we had been allowed to vote, even though it means that some would have to cast difficult votes, but that is what we are here for.

For this one, while it is far from perfect, I will urge all Members to vote aye on the motion to proceed.

Mr. President, I see my distinguished colleague on the floor is ready to speak, so I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3993

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, we are 40 days today from a general election—40 days—40 days until the American people make their choice, or at least that is the idea.

But there are a group of people who seem intent on influencing the people's choice, on manipulating it, on shaping it according to their own preferences. I am not talking about China or Russia or Iran; I am talking about a group of corporations—the most powerful corporations in the history of this Nation, the most powerful corporations in the history of the world. I am talking about being Big Tech.

We know who they are. They run the giant digital platforms, the places where Americans communicate and share their opinions. But those platforms are more than that. They are more than places to talk or buy things. Facebook and Google, Twitter and

Instagram and YouTube—these are the platforms that control more and more of our daily lives.

And, yes, I said “control.” These platforms control our social communication, the way that we talk to each other, when and how, where, and on what terms. They control what news we read or even what news we see.

They control more and more journalism in America, right down to what is in news articles and how the headlines are written.

They control how elected officials communicate with their constituents, when they can run advertisements, what their messages can say and can’t.

And they want to control us. Big Tech platforms relentlessly spy on their customers—you and me. They track us around the web. They monitor our every move online and even when we are offline.

They track our location and whether we are in a car or riding a bike or on the street. They track the websites that we visit and when. They track the things that we buy. They track the videos that we watch. They track what our children are doing. They track everything—all with the purpose of getting enough information on each one of us to influence us, to shape our preferences and opinions and viewpoints.

This is enormous power—unheard of power—and the Big Tech platforms are intent on using it. They are intent on using it in this election.

Let’s just cut to the chase: The Big Tech platforms are owned and operated by woke capitalists. They are leftists. They are liberals. They are not conservatives. They are no friend to conservatives. They fervently opposed the election of Donald Trump and other conservatives in 2016. They fervently oppose it this year.

Now they are trying to use their power to shape the outcome of an election. For months, the tech platforms have been engaging in escalating acts of censorship—political censorship—aimed at conservatives.

They have censored the President of the United States. They have banned pro-life groups from their sites. They have tried to silence independent conservative journalists like the Federalist.

Now, the censorship is never against liberals, notice. No, Joe Biden isn’t censored. Pro-choice groups aren’t discriminated against. Liberal news sites, they don’t get threatened and bullied and shut out.

No, Big Tech targets conservatives for censorship for a simple reason: They don’t like conservatives. They don’t agree with conservatives. They don’t want to see conservatives get elected.

Here is the thing: If they are allowed to use their power in this way, if they are permitted to leverage their control over news and information and data to silence the voices of conservatives, then we will be turning control of our government over to them.

Big Tech targets conservatives for censorship for a simple reason: They don’t like conservatives. They don’t agree with conservatives.

We will be turning control of our elections over to them, control of the Nation over to them. Let’s just be clear. No corporation should run America. No set of corporate overlords should substitute their judgment for the judgment of “we the people.” No woke capitalists should be able to shape the outcome of an election by silencing speech. That is why we have to act, and act today.

There is a simple, straightforward solution to the censorship power of these digital platforms: Let those who have been censored claim their rights. Let them sue. Let them go to court. Let them challenge the decisions of the tech platforms and have their day before the bar of the law. Right now, Federal law prohibits this. It prevents Americans from challenging the tech platforms and their censorship. It prevents Americans from challenging just about anything that the tech companies do.

That should change. That is why today I urge this body to adopt my legislation, which I have proudly introduced, along with Senators RUBIO, COTTON, BRAUN, and LOEFFLER, to give every American who is unfairly censored the right to have his or her day in court, the right to stand and be heard, the right to fairness and due process of law. This is a stand we must take in defense of free speech, in defense of our elections, but more importantly, above all, in defense of our democracy and the rule of “we the people.”

So I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce be discharged from further consideration of S. 3983 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I just want to say in the Senate, in my time in this body, this is one of the most stunning abuses of power I have seen in my time of public service.

I think my colleague knows that I was sitting until 5 minutes ago in the Ways and Means Committee, where I was invited to testify about Social Security, and I was given a message that the Senator from Missouri was going to stand up and basically try to throw in the garbage can a bipartisan law that I and a conservative Republican, former Congressman Chris Cox—well known to conservatives—wrote because as we thought about the formulation of technology policy, our big concern was for the little guy, for the person who

didn’t have power, the person who didn’t have clout.

We were picking up accounts that if they were just trying to come out with their invention—might be something they put up on a website or a blog—they could be held personally liable for something that was posted on their sites that they had no idea about.

So we said: We can’t do that to the little guy. We can’t strip them of their voice.

By the way, my concern about the little guy that led to the passage of this law is something I continue to focus on today.

This law is hugely important to movements like Me Too and Black Lives Matter because it gives Americans the opportunity to see the messages they want to get out. We all see the videos. Frankly, establishment media wouldn’t even run a lot of it because they would be sued.

So the original interest in this was making sure that the little guy had a chance to be heard. That is the interest today. That is what the Senator from Missouri wants to throw in the trash can. That is No. 1.

No. 2, the effect of what the Senator from Missouri wants to do—and for colleagues who have just come in, I just learned about this 5 minutes before the Senator from Missouri came to the floor. The net effect of this is that Donald Trump can force social media—and he is already working the refs—to print his lies.

The thing that concerned me right at the outset was the lies about vote-by-mail. He wanted to force Twitter to print his lies about vote-by-mail. That, too, is something that we sought to constrain in the bipartisan law. And many people think the 26 words really began a policy of empowering the little guy to be heard.

Now, I am going to wrap up with just one point. Colleagues, the Senator from Missouri talks about how he wants to take on Big Tech. That is his concern. Let’s take on Big Tech.

If you want to take on Big Tech, you can go on my privacy bill. It is called the Mind Your Own Business Act. It is the toughest bill on the table with respect to Big Tech. It says that if an executive, a CEO, of one of the big companies, lies and lies repeatedly, they could be held personally liable, including the prospect of prison time.

So if the Senator from Missouri is serious about taking on Big Tech, I have a bill to do it. That is not what the interest is here. This is all about Donald Trump wanting to force social media to carry his political water and to print his lies.

For that reason—and I would have more to say had I been given some semblance of a courtesy to be able to prepare remarks on this, I would speak in more detail, but for those reasons, at least those three, I object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I will just say to my friend, the Democratic Senator describes a world that just doesn't exist. He says Section 230 protects the little guy? Section 230 protects the most powerful corporations in the history of the world. Google and Facebook aren't the little guy. Instagram and Twitter aren't the little guy.

Do you know who is left vulnerable by those mega corporations? The people who don't have a voice. The people who, when they get deplatformed, don't have an option. If you are silenced by Google or Facebook or Twitter, what is your option? None. Nothing. You can't be heard. You can't go to court. You can't do anything.

Every American should have the right, if they are unfairly discriminated against because of their political views, to at least be heard in court.

Section 230, as it exists today and as it is currently being applied, protects the most powerful corporations. It protects and has protected human traffickers. It protects some of the worst abuses of free speech in our society. That is why I will continue to fight to have it reformed and continue to fight to give the American people a voice.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am told the Senator from Arkansas is up, and I will be very brief. I appreciate his courtesy.

Once again, the Senator from Missouri is getting it all wrong. He talks again about how this law—this bipartisan law—is basically not for the little guy, but he is taking on the big guys. Well, the reason that is factually wrong is that on this floor, a previous effort was made to deal with sex trafficking. It was called SESTA and FOSTA, and the desire was—we are all against this horrible smut online. We are all against it. The desire was to block it.

As the debate went forward, I and others said: You are not going to be able to block it. You are going to be able to block Backpage, like what eventually happened under existing law, which I supported—not under this new thing.

Well, guess who supported this SESTA-FOSTA deal that is pretty much like the Senator from Missouri—it was Facebook. Facebook supported the last effort. Last time I looked, they are a pretty big company. So the Senator from Missouri is just getting it all wrong here.

I come back to the proposition—I see my friend from Vermont, who has been really the tech expert here—that what we have always been about is the little guy, and you see it every day with Me Too, Black Lives Matter, and so many voices from the community that, because of this law, can be heard.

I do not—not just on this, because I have objected, so it can't go forward—I do not accept this idea that this

somehow is the path to solving problems in communications, because under SESTA-FOSTA, which is really the kind of model the Senator from Missouri is talking about, the only thing that happened was the horrendous people involved in sex trafficking went to the dark web, and so now we have an even bigger problem.

Mr. President, I don't expect this will be the last time we talk about it, but I would like to repeat to the Senator from Missouri that if the roles were reversed here and I had an idea that I wanted to advance, I would extend a courtesy to give him an opportunity to prepare remarks.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, mercifully, I know of no further debate on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. COTTON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 195 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Gillibrand	Reed
Baldwin	Graham	Risch
Barrasso	Grassley	Roberts
Bennet	Hassan	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rounds
Blunt	Hirono	Rubio
Booker	Hoeven	Sanders
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Burr	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Shelby
Casey	Lankford	Sinema
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Coons	Lee	Stabenow
Cornyn	Loeffler	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Cotton	Markey	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Enzi	Murphy	Warren
Ernst	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Perdue	Wicker
Fischer	Peters	Wyden
Gardner	Portman	Young

NAYS—2

Cruz

Paul

NOT VOTING—5

Capito
Cassidy

Harris
Johnson

Moran

The motion was agreed to.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021 AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8337) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 2663

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 2663.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2663.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2664 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2663

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 2664 to amendment 2663.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the underlying bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby

move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 552, H.R. 8337, a bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Richard C. Shelby, Lindsey Graham, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tom Cotton, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Cory Gardner, John Barrasso, Joni Ernst, Mike Crapo, Rob Portman, James E. Risch, John Hoeven.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

(The remarks of Mr. ENZI, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. BARRASSO pertaining to the introduction of S. 4684 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. ENZI. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

REAFFIRMING THE SENATE'S COMMITMENT TO THE ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 718, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 718) reaffirming the Senate's commitment to the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 718) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I would like to speak to the resolution.

It is a shame that we have to come and reaffirm our commitment to our country, to our Constitution, and who we are as a people and how we became the greatest country on Earth and the freedoms we all take for granted many, many times.

Sometimes we hear things that challenge that. We heard that yesterday, and we were very concerned about that.

As of today, my friend and colleague from Indiana, Senator BRAUN, basically

wanted to reaffirm our commitment to the Pledge of Allegiance, which is something we should do every day—our Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and to our great country.

What we are doing with this resolution is basically saying that the bedrock of democracy is the orderly and peaceful transfer of power when a President transitions out. This should not be a question. There should not ever be one iota of interruption whatsoever at that peaceful demonstration.

I remember 1960. At that time, it was the race between Senator John Kennedy and Vice President Richard Nixon. It was very, very close. Everyone was on pins and needles, but there was an orderly transfer. Richard Nixon conceded, and to take this out further, he did a peaceful and orderly transfer, and away he went.

Then you had Al Gore—Senator Al Gore at that time, former Vice President Al Gore—and George W. Bush in 2000. We know how that turned out with the chads and all the hanging chads and the consternation of not knowing for so long. Then, basically, for the sake of our country, he did the right thing. Again, we expect that to be done.

We are in the most difficult times right now, and for the President to even address the subject of maybe not knowing if he would accept or not is beyond all of our comprehension that could ever happen in America, that it could ever happen in the discourse and the will of the voters, the verification of the votes and being able to protect the ballot box. We have come too long in our country, and we continue to be challenged.

I believe that to have the leader of the free world talk as if we are an autocracy—authoritarian versus a democracy—is something that alarmed me, along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Even as quiet as some may be, I know they are alarmed with that.

What we did is affirm who we are in the Senate and what we believe in. The resolution is very clear. All it says is that we affirm as the Senate our "commitment to the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States" and intend that there should be no disruptions by the President or any person in power to overturn the will of the people of the United States. It is really who we are.

Mr. President, it is what you defended, what you fought for, why you entered the service. I am so proud of all the people who have served. Thank you for your service, Mr. President.

Thank you to all the people in West Virginia, the most patriotic people in the world. I have said this many times. I am so proud of my State. We have more veterans per capita than most any State; shed more blood, lost more lives for the cause of freedom than most any State. We never failed to answer the call. We have done the heavy lifting. Our people worked hard, includ-

ing my grandfather and all my relatives. We mined the coal that made the steel that built the guns and ships and the factories and defended our country and our great Nation. We are very proud of all that.

This is not who we are. This is not who we are, and we must speak loudly. This is not politics. This is not Republican or Democrat—make no mistake. This is basically saying that if you believe—for the sake of the Good Lord and all we believe in and our country, this is about maintaining this democracy. That is all this is about—maintaining. We will defend that.

Today, we have just reaffirmed our commitment to the orderly transition of power by the President of the United States, whoever that should be, whenever that might happen; that they must have an orderly transfer that we all will defend and uphold. That is what we affirmed today.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity, and I thank all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Thank you for standing true for who we are and what we believe in and what we have committed ourselves to.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I want to rise just briefly to pay tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

I saw a statement about her in the aftermath of her passing that said she will probably go down in history as one of the greatest women lawyers in the history of the United States. I don't think that does her justice. I want to take the floor to say that Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in my view, will probably go down in history as one of the top three judges and lawyers ever in the history of the United States, male or female. I want to describe why. Before I do, I just want to notice the outpouring of support for her.

In the 4 days after she passed, from Friday night until Tuesday night, my office received 37,000 pieces of correspondence about Justice Ginsburg, praising her, lifting her up as a role model, expressing concern about what the Court would be without her. In my 8 years in the Senate, I have never seen an outpouring of support for an individual like that. That is just an example of how highly we hold her in regard.

Justice Ginsburg is well known and particularly well known in Virginia. One of the opinions she authored that is one of her real pivotal opinions was an opinion that ruled that a public university—the Virginia Military Institute—could not deny access to women

students. That was a very controversial case in Virginia. Justice Ginsburg's opinion was courteous and recognized the great virtue of VMI as an institution but held up its many virtues and values and said women students at this public university should be able to have the same access.

Justice Ginsburg as a Justice has left her mark on our society in such an amazing way.

I want to talk about Ruth Bader Ginsburg the lawyer because I assert that if Ruth Bader Ginsburg had never been on the Supreme Court, she still would have earned her way into one of the greatest American lawyers or jurists of all time. Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

It was a Virginian who wrote into the Declaration of Independence the words that are maybe among some of the most known words in the English language: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." Those words are so powerful. They set out a powerful North Star for our country in equality and principle but had ambiguity wrapped up in them.

Jefferson, although he believed in equality, knew and was deeply troubled by the fact that slaves and other even freed African Americans at the time were not treated equally. Jefferson wasn't particularly troubled by the fact that women were not treated equally at that time. He had an ability to see what the principle should be but not necessarily to apply it to his own life, which is, frankly, a weakness that I think we all have suffered from during our life at times, but at least he set out the right principle and said that it applied to men.

I think you can look at the history of our country as a North Star was set for us in 1776, and over time, we sort of progressively realized, wow, that is what equality means. We have to orient closer to the star. A sailor can steer by a star without ever reaching it, and maybe, because we are imperfect people, we can orient by the star of equality and never get fully there because we are imperfect. When we orient by it, we do pretty well.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, the Constitution was dramatically rewritten with the addition of the 13th Amendment, banning slavery; the 14th Amendment, creating due process and equal protection of the laws; and the 15th Amendment, blocking limitations of voting based on race.

I want to talk for a minute the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment might be the longest amendment in the Constitution. It is power-packed.

Every citizen is entitled to the privileges and immunities of citizenship. No one can be "deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law," but especially—that echoing of what Jefferson said—all persons are entitled to the "equal protection of the laws."

The 14th Amendment is interesting because in other parts of the amendment, it talks about what you get if you are a citizen, but on the equal pro-

tection side, you don't have to be a citizen. All persons are entitled to "equal protection of the laws."

When that was passed by Congress and ratified by States in 1870, the Constitution fundamentally changed. One of the fascinating things is, as soon as the Constitution had this 14th Amendment with this particular clause in it guaranteeing equal protection of the laws—let me tell you about one of the first cases that came to the Supreme Court.

A woman by the name of Myra Bradwell, living in Illinois, wanted to be licensed to practice law. She wanted to be a lawyer, just like Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Illinois would not allow her to practice law because she was a woman. She said: Wait a minute. We have a 14th Amendment, and it guarantees me the privileges and immunities of being a U.S. citizen, guarantees me equal protection of the laws.

She took her case all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court after Illinois denied her a law license. In 1871, 1 year after the Constitution had been amended to guarantee the equality of every person, by an 8-to-1 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that Myra Bradwell could not practice law and Illinois could limit law practice to men if that is what they chose.

Let me read from that opinion. Justice Bradley wrote an opinion then on the Court. Here is what he said:

The natural and proper timidity and delicacy which belongs to the female sex evidently unfits it for many of the occupations of civil life. . . . The paramount destiny and mission of women are to fulfill the noble and benign offices of wife and mother. This is the law of the Creator.

By an 8-to-1 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court, on which Ruth Bader Ginsburg would later sit after a distinguished career as an attorney, said that Illinois could deprive women of the ability to practice the profession of lawyer.

When did the Supreme Court change that ruling? It is still kind of shocking to me that it was not until 1971—100 years later, in a case called *Reed v. Reed*, a case that came out of the State court system in Idaho—that Chief Justice Warren Burger, for a unanimous Court, said: Wait a minute. The 14th Amendment says all persons are entitled to the equal protection of the laws. Guess what. That applies to women.

How the Court in 1871 could have read those words and said it didn't apply to women is kind of hard to imagine, but it should make us humble because it should suggest that even educated, smart people could get things wrong.

Yet, 100 years later, in 1971, there was *Reed v. Reed*, which was a technical, quirky case about Idaho law that preferred men over women to be executors of estates so that, if there were two with equal claims in terms of being a relation of somebody who died intestate, they would prefer a man over a woman. That was a quirky, technical

case that came to the Supreme Court. After 101 years, following the passage of the 14th Amendment, the Supreme Court said: Wait a minute. Women are citizens. Women are people. Women are entitled to equality.

Who wrote the brief in that case?

The brief in that case was written by a talented, young lawyer who had been one of nine in her class at Harvard Law School, who had often been told she couldn't do this or she couldn't do that, and who hadn't often been offered jobs along the way. The brief in that case was written by Ruth Bader Ginsburg. In very, very characteristic humility, she was the brains behind the case, but she allowed the case to be argued in the Supreme Court by the Idaho attorney who was very close to Mrs. Reed, who was pursuing the appeal in the Supreme Court.

When *Reed v. Reed* was decided, it was an earthquake. After 100 years, to finally say that, of course, women are equal, and, of course, women can make claims under the 14th Amendment, it was an earthquake, and it affected all aspects of American law.

Immediately after *Reed v. Reed*, Congress went through the entire United States Code. There were dozens—possibly hundreds—of distinctions in the code that gave preference to men over women or made some distinction between men and women. Yet, after *Reed v. Reed*, Congress scrubbed the laws of this country to eliminate second-class status for women, at least in law. We haven't completely gotten there but maybe in practice.

The State legislatures of all 50 States also did the same. There were all kinds of quirky and archaic rules that held women back in property and in civil matters—laws that, for example, said that a married woman, because of being married, couldn't prosecute a rape charge against her husband or that it was a defense to rape if the man married the woman—that this could be a complete defense and could wipe out criminal offenses.

All of these weird distinctions in law that had been allowed since the beginning of our country, even with a Constitution that guaranteed women's equality, were suddenly under the microscope with a new way of looking at our society, and it changed because of this tiny giant, Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

That is the only point that I really want to make today on the floor. As a Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg changed our country and had a big impact in Virginia in the decision about the Virginia Military Institute. That decision was about one institution, but it became a decision that applied to all institutions—that public educational institutions cannot deprive women of equal access to the educational experience.

I will just conclude where I started.

If Ruth Bader Ginsburg had never been a Supreme Court Justice, the work that she had done as an architect of helping the American legal system

but also the American citizens understand that equal protection of the laws applies to women just like they apply to men would have entitled her to have been viewed as one of the most impactful lawyers of all time.

I would put her up with John Marshall, the first great Chief Justice of the Court, who really had to form so many of the doctrines that we now sort of take for granted about our American jurisprudence, and Thurgood Marshall, who, in many ways, carried the same fight for equality to make us realize that it applied to people regardless of the color of their skin and then served on the Supreme Court. They are the two lawyers of whom I think when I think of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and I am not sure that anyone else is in the same class with her other than those two.

It is a sad time when someone of such magnitude passes, but I can tell from the 37,000 pieces of correspondence that my office received in the first 4 days after she left that, if you measure a life not by the day that it ends but by the influence that it has and the example that it sets, it is also a time in which we can just admire, be in awe of, and celebrate the accomplishments of a wonderful American.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, last Friday, as the Jewish New Year began, Rosh Hashanah, our Nation lost a titan of justice and an unmatched force for good—Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

According to Jewish tradition, a person who dies on Rosh Hashanah is a *tzaddik*—a person of great righteousness. Justice Ginsburg, who was only the seventh Jewish Supreme Court Justice and the first female Jewish Justice, was, indeed, righteous.

I and Jill, my wife, were proud to call Ruth a friend, and like all Santa Feans, we are proud that Ruth graced our city at the Santa Fe Opera every summer. She loved New Mexico, and New Mexico loved her. Our hearts are with Justice Ginsburg's family.

You shared a great national treasure with all of us, and we are eternally grateful.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was 1 of only 12 women who graduated from Columbia Law School in 1959. With a young child in tow, she tied for first in her class. Talk about a trailblazer. Indeed, RBG, as she is so affectionately called, blazed so many trails—too many to list. She was the first woman to serve on two major law reviews and one of the first female law professors in the Nation. She cofounded the first law journal on women's rights, and coau-

thored the first casebook on gender discrimination.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg had to push open those doors because no one opened them for her. She was no stranger to gender discrimination. She was demoted at work when she became pregnant with her first child. She was refused a U.S. Supreme Court clerkship because she was a woman. She was also paid less than her male counterparts as a law professor.

Always driven toward justice, RBG became the leading legal mind behind incrementally dismantling gender discrimination laws in the United States. She spearheaded the strategy to apply the 14th Amendment—requiring equal protection under the law—to women, and she won in the Supreme Court five times. Her victories helped to take down the mass of legal structures relegating women to second-class status. She accomplished what was nearly impossible and expanded who is included in “We the People,” and her quest for justice never ended.

As a jurist, she authored groundbreaking opinions—striking down strict requirements on abortion clinics that were designed to put them out of business, establishing the right of persons with mental illness to be treated in the community instead of in institutions, and opening up the Virginia Military Institute to female cadets, which, I think, Senator Kaine talked about a little bit earlier.

She was also as well known for her forceful dissents. “I dissent” has become a rallying cry against an activist conservative Court.

In 2013, when the Court struck down the preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act, Justice Ginsburg declared: “‘Hubris’ is a fit word for today’s demolition of the VRA.” She observed that striking down voting protections because they worked too well was like “throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.”

Justice Ginsburg was brilliant, determined, and courageous.

Now, as her long and well-lived life has come to an end and as the Nation mourns, it is only fitting that she continue making firsts—as the first woman to lie in state in the Capitol. All of us—women and men alike—owe a debt of gratitude to Justice Ginsburg and to her righteous and unwavering commitment to justice and equality under the law.

As you have now heard many times, Justice Ginsburg’s last words to the American public were “My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed.”

Yet, mere hours after the Supreme Court announced Justice Ginsburg’s passing, while the Nation was in mourning, Leader McConnell announced he would replace her before the current Presidency ends.

Let me say this: While my heart is broken, my soul is on fire.

Not only are Senate Republicans dis-

quest, they are turning their back on the principle that they claimed was pure just 4 years ago.

In February 2016, Justice Scalia passed away a full 9 months before a Presidential election. At that time, the majority leader refused to hold hearings on President Obama’s highly qualified nominee, proclaiming:

The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president.

Those words meant nothing. They were deceitful tricks in pursuit of raw power, and they have brought shame upon this body.

Election day is only 40 days away, but it is more accurate to say that the election ends in 40 days, because the election is actually underway today. Voters are already voting in 29 States. More than half of the States are voting. Tens of millions of Americans will cast their votes before election day. The leader’s vow to vote to replace Justice Ginsburg is a slap in the face to these voters and runs roughshod over the Constitution.

Senator McConnell is moving at lightning speed to steal the second Supreme Court seat because he knows this President faces an uncertain electoral future. He is scared to let the American people, as he put it, “have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice.”

This hypocrisy is only outmatched by the utter disdain for American voters—disdain for their intelligence, disdain for their will.

But the real scandal will be what this means to the American people. On November 10, 7 days after election day, the Supreme Court will hear argument on the legality of the Affordable Care Act, or what many call the ACA. After failing to repeal the ACA in Congress, now the Republicans are trying to destroy it in the courts, and they are rushing to fill this vacancy with a judge who will do that work for them.

The Trump administration is standing with 20 Republican Governors and attorneys general who are asking the Supreme Court to strike down the ACA. Republicans are trying to take away Americans’ healthcare in the middle of the worst pandemic in a century. It is unforgivable.

By overwhelming numbers, the American people support the ACA. Before the ACA, insurance companies could deny healthcare insurance to people with preexisting conditions. Up to 129 million Americans under age 65 have preexisting conditions. The millions of people who have been infected by COVID-19 now have a preexisting condition for the rest of their lives. In my home State of New Mexico, more than 840,000 people live with a preexisting condition. Because of the ACA, 23 million more Americans have healthcare insurance, and millions more have Medicaid expansion. This includes hundreds of thousands of New Mexicans.

When the ACA was challenged years ago, the Supreme Court upheld it by a 5-to-4 vote. We are one vote away from the decimation of our healthcare rights at a time when nearly 7 million Americans have contracted COVID-19.

The threat is not only to the ACA but also to women's reproductive healthcare, our environmental protections, and what is left of our campaign finance limits. So we know why they are moving at a record pace to fill this seat.

But while the President and the majority leader want to rush through a lifetime Justice in just a few weeks, COVID relief has languished on Senator MCCONNELL's desk for months. Millions of Americans are out of work. Small businesses are closing their doors. Schools can't reopen safely. Parents are burning the candle at both ends, working and caring for kids at home. State, local, and Tribal governments can't meet budgets for essential services.

The American people desperately need another relief package, but the Senate Republicans and the President don't think there is any urgency. Leader MCCONNELL said that himself.

According to the President, COVID-19 "affects virtually nobody." The President said that—"affects virtually nobody."

This virus that "affects virtually nobody" is the third leading cause of death in the United States, has taken more lives in 8 short months than the Vietnam and Middle East wars combined, and has sent our economy into a nosedive not seen since the Great Depression.

We talk a lot about priorities here in the Senate. Right now you are seeing Senate Republican priorities in stark relief. They will rush a lifetime Supreme Court pick in weeks—violating every principle they established themselves—to please their far-right donors. But they will neglect relief for you—for struggling families, for people out of work, for people sick and dying—for months.

Finally, we cannot ignore the fact that the President has explicitly said he wants to fill this vacancy to help decide the 2020 election in his favor. He has repeatedly lied that absentee ballots, votes from Democratic areas, or votes that are tabulated after election day are somehow fraudulent.

And like an authoritarian, he does not even try to correct himself when his lies are debunked. Instead, he openly admits he wants the Supreme Court to decide the election by disqualifying votes he does not like and even refuses to commit to a peaceful transfer of power.

The Senate should not become an accomplice to this corrupt scheme that threatens the future of our democracy, and every Senate Republican should condemn the President's refusal to commit to give up power peacefully.

I would note that several of my Republican friends have stood up and

have said that there should be a peaceful transition of power, and I applaud them for that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—MOTIONS TO RECONSIDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the nominations confirmed this week, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE JOURNAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Journal of proceedings be approved to date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING GOLD SHAW FARM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, agriculture has always been at the heart of Vermont's economy. For generations, families across Vermont have made a living through agriculture, tilling our rocky soil and raising livestock on our hillsides. Farming in Vermont has always been a challenging yet very rewarding way of life. Now more than ever, it is clear to see the obstacles faced by farmers. I would like to take a moment to recognize Gold Shaw Farm, a farm founded by a husband and wife team in northeastern Vermont. Morgan and Allison Gold, the owners of Gold Shaw Farm, have found a very interesting way to meet these challenges, supplement their agricultural income, adapt their practices, and share their work with the world.

Morgan and Allison Gold moved to Peacham, VT, and established their farm in 2016. On their 150-acre plot, the Golds raise chickens, geese, ducks, and sheep and cultivate a variety of vegetables and berries. Soon after they started farming, the Golds began filming their daily activities and posting them on YouTube. The farm may be small, but over the years, Gold Shaw Farm has amassed a very large and loyal fan base that tune in regularly to watch as Morgan and Allison collect eggs, chase ducks, and play with their dog, Toby.

Some of the farm's fans have even driven all the way to Peacham to buy eggs and visit the farm. With the help of their growing audience, the Golds hope to expand their farm into a larger sustainable operation. Starting and maintaining a farm is challenging work, but in the Golds' model, we see innovative and creative ways to not only document farming experiences, but share those experiences with the world and hopefully inspire a new generation of farmers. I look forward to tuning in to watch their progress.

Earlier this year, the Golds were profiled in *The New York Times*, and I ask unanimous consent that the article, "In a Wistful Age, Farmers Find a New Angle: Chores" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the *New York Times*, Aug. 7, 2020]

IN A WISTFUL AGE, FARMERS FIND A NEW ANGLE: CHORES

(By Ellen Barry)

PEACHAM, VT.—The sweet smell of hay rose off the earth on a recent evening, as Morgan Gold strode across his farmyard in heavy boots. He crossed the paddock, scanning for new eggs, water levels, infected peck wounds, rips in the fence line.

But mainly—let's be honest—he was looking for content.

Though Mr. Gold sells poultry and eggs from his duck farm in Vermont's northeast corner, most of what he produces as a farmer is, well, entertainment.

Mr. Gold, who is short and stocky, with the good-natured ease of a standup comedian, does his chores while carrying a digital camera in one hand and murmuring into a microphone.

Then, twice a week, like clockwork, he posts a short video on YouTube about his exploits as a neophyte farmer, often highlighting failures or pratfalls. Keeping a close eye on analytics, he has boosted his YouTube audiences high enough to provide a steady advertising revenue of around \$2,500 to \$4,000 a month, about eight times what he earns from selling farm products.

This part of New England is rocky, hilly and isolated, and generations of small farmers have cast about for new ways to scrape out a living: the sleigh rides, the alpacas, the therapy ponies, the pick-your-own hemp. It is a new thing, though, to make farm life into reality TV.

Mr. Gold, 40, has learned the hard way—he tried to take a month off last winter—that any gap in his YouTube publication schedule results in a steep drop-off in audience. So he keeps a running list of themes that could be fodder for future videos. It reads, in part:

Should I Feed My Dog Eggs?

Don't Trust This Duck

My Homestead Is a Dumpster Fire

What Does My Guard Dog Do All Day?

He has learned, through trial and error, what works with an audience. The sheepdog-mounted GoPro didn't work. ("People were like, 10 seconds and I was puking," said his wife, Allison Ebrahimi Gold.) Slow, sumptuous drone footage of his sun-dappled 150 acres, land porn for wistful cubicle dwellers—that definitely works.

Character development works, as demonstrated by Mr. Gold's most popular video, "Our Freakishly Huge Duck (This Is Not NORMAL)," which, as he would put it, blew the doors off. Slow-motion footage of wagging goose butts, set to a bouncy, whimsical orchestral soundtrack, works.

But few things compel audiences, he came to realize, more than a real-life setback. He came to this realization last summer when a mink broke into his duck hutch, leaving its interior spattered with eggs and blood and feathers.

"It was one of the most depressing days of my life," he said, adding, "but at the same time, I'm thinking, 'How is the audience going to react to this sort of thing?'"

The next videos, which featured freaky night-vision footage of the offending mink, helped boost Mr. Gold's YouTube audience toward the 100,000-viewer threshold. And it helped him understand his own place in the universe of farmer-influencers, which tilts heavily toward the how-to genre.

"The storytelling part is what I'm good at," he said. "I'm not that good at the farming part." It is a paradox that the less financially viable small farming becomes, the more that Americans want to experience it firsthand.

This idea is as old as the dude ranch; video streaming of farm life is only the most recent iteration. Amy Fewell, the founder of Homesteaders of America, said the number of farmers who earn substantial income off YouTube channels is steadily climbing, and now stands at around 50. Some of them earn money through product endorsement deals, like Al Lumnah, who posts videos five days a week from his farm in Littleton, N.H.

It's a lot of work: Mr. Lumnah wakes up at 3:30 a.m. so he can edit the previous day's footage in time to post new video at 6 a.m., which his 210,000 regular viewers, who are scattered as far as Cambodia and India, have come to expect. "People will say, it's lunchtime here in Ukraine," Mr. Lumnah said.

Others, like Justin Rhodes, a farmer in North Carolina, have parlayed a giant YouTube audience into a dues-paying membership enterprise—he has 2,000 fans who pay annual fees of up to \$249 for private instruction and direct communication, via text message. "We don't sell a single farm product," Mr. Rhodes said. "Our farm product is education and entertainment."

Mr. Gold, who moved to Vermont and started his YouTube channel four years ago, has not reached that point. He still has a full-time job, as a marketing executive for an insurance company, and so far has refused the endorsement deals. He has built up his flocks of chicken, geese and ducks to 100, and is hoping to add cows next spring.

He's certainly captured the interest of the farmers who surround him in Peacham, said Tom Galinat, a neighbor whose family farms 550 acres.

Farmers here struggle to eke out a living from a rocky, uneven soil and hostile climate, and they are astounded—in some cases a little jealous—to discover that Mr. Gold is internet famous, he said.

"He's found a way to way to monetize farming with less physical labor," Mr. Galinat said. "Some guys are like, this is silly, since he's farming 20 ducks. But at the same time, he's making more than other farmers who have 500 acres of land."

But Mr. Galinat, who is also Peacham's town clerk, counts himself among a younger generation of farmers who are learning from Mr. Gold.

"He has taught me I am no longer selling hay, I am selling a lifestyle," he said. "He's really selling himself—his emotions, his opinions, his downfalls, his successes. Boom! That's it, that's the way forward."

As Mr. Gold's audience has grown, he has at times been taken aback by the enthusiasm.

Several dozen viewers have driven all the way to Peacham and knocked on his door, hoping to buy eggs or talk about ducks, something his wife described as "really distressing." "Morgan is so vulnerable on film," she said, "that people assume they know us as people."

Most of it is nice, though. Viewers send handcrafted accessories for his outbuildings, like a plaque that says, in elaborate lettering, "Ye Olde Quack House." When one of the Golds' barn cats was hit by a car recently, at least 50 viewers offered cash to cover her medical bills.

Samier Elrasoul, a nursing student in Howell, Mich., is so devoted to Mr. Gold's videos that he got a vanity license plate reading QUACKN, in honor of the catchphrase—"Release the Quacken!"—that Mr. Gold exclaims when he frees his ducks from their hutch in the morning.

Mr. Elrasoul, 34, says the videos inspire him because he, too, has a dead-end job—he works as a supervisor at Starbucks—and he, too, harbors a dream of changing his life.

"Seeing some guy just like me, just dropping everything and doing what he's passionate about, was very encouraging to see," he said. "I'm like, wow, he's living his dream."

For others, Mr. Gold's farm has provided a haven in a difficult time. Charlotte Schmoll, who is 6 and lives in Portland, Ore., spent days at the beginning of lockdown watching Mr. Gold's videos over and over. She announced last month that she, too, plans to raise ducks in Vermont.

"One of the questions that comes up when we watch shows is, 'Is this real? Did this happen?'" said her mother, Julie Schmoll. "That's one of the things she liked about Mr. Rogers, and maybe she likes about the duck farmer, that he is also quote-unquote true, or real."

Mr. Gold does wonder, sometimes, about what it means, in the long term, to make his life into a story. When the cat was hit by a car, he found himself reflexively converting the event into a script, and stopped to ask himself who he was becoming.

"It's like, how much is the experience and how much is the packaging of the experience, and how do you distinguish between the two," he said. "Because you almost go, 'I had a duck die, let me think about the first act here, and the second act.'"

And still, the show goes on. Late on a recent evening, Mr. Gold was putting finishing touches on a video about his dog, Toby, who has never quite grown into his intended role as a duck herder.

Early drafts of the video had focused on how much the dog had improved.

But there was something dishonest about that, Mr. Gold realized that evening, as he and Ms. Gold flung themselves around the paddock, trying to catch birds with string nets, while the dog looked on placidly, thumping his tail.

Now, in the gathering dark, Mr. Gold was rewriting the ending to one that emphasized his acceptance of the dog's true nature.

It's always difficult to bring closure to a video, Ms. Gold said. It was almost 9 o'clock, and she was hoping to go inside.

"You have to create an end," she said. "Because the truth is, we do this every day, so there's not really an end."

But Mr. Gold, for his part, was pleased. "I love it when a story has a good moral," he said.

BUDGET ENFORCEMENT LEVELS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits. In addition, sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the Chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments.

The Senate will soon consider H.R. 8337, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act. This measure includes two provisions, found in sections 126 and 163, that are designated as being for emergency purposes pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of BBEDCA. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that these provisions will have no net effect on budget authority but would result in \$92 million in outlays in fiscal year 2021.

As a result of the emergency designations, I am revising the outlay allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by \$92 million in fiscal year 2021. Further, I am increasing the budgetary outlay aggregate for fiscal year 2021 by equivalent amounts.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES
(Pursuant to Sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974—\$ Millions)

	2021
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	3,832,200
Outlays	4,008,705
Adjustments:	
Budget Authority	0
Outlays	92
Revised Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	3,832,200
Outlays	4,008,797

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE
ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021
(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974—\$ Millions)

	2021
Current Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	671,500
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	626,500
General Purpose Outlays	1,584,277
Adjustments:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	0
General Purpose Outlays	92
Revised Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	671,500
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	626,500
General Purpose Outlays	1,584,369

Memorandum: Detail of Adjustments Made Above

	OCO	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Wildfire Suppression	U.S. Census	Total
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Purpose Outlays	0	0	0	92	0	0	92

NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise to enter into a colloquy with the junior Senator from Nevada, regarding sections 2861 and 2862 of title XXVIII of the National Defense Authorization Act that was recently considered by the Senate. These two sections of the bill include complex, intertwined history of public lands, Nevada's cultures and economy, Native American Tribes, and the Silver State's proud role in hosting and training our men and women in uniform.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I thank the senior Senator from Nevada for joining me today for this colloquy. The Senator correctly notes that these two sections of the National Defense Authorization Act raise profound historical public policy questions about how to protect our public lands, recognize the voices and issues raised by Native American Tribes, local governments and concerned citizens, and maintain Nevada's proud role in support of our Nation's Armed Forces and our national security. These public policy questions are amongst the most consequential natural resource issues facing the Silver State and have prompted Nevadans from every corner of our State to engage on the best path forward.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I thank the junior Senator from Nevada for her partnership on these important questions. This year's annual defense authorization bill is more than 1,000 pages long, but sections 2861 and 2862 together take up less than one page. As the Senator knows, while the legislative text seems quite simple, significant and historical public policy questions underpin these two sections of the bill.

Section 2861 provides for a 20-year extension of the public land withdrawals specific to Fallon Range Training Complex which is utilized by the U.S. Navy. Section 2862 provides for a similar 20-year extension of the public land withdrawals specific to the Nevada Test and Training Range, otherwise known as NTTR, which is utilized by the U.S. Air Force. The reality of what this legislation means to our constituents in Nevada, our Nation's public lands, and its potential impact for current and future generations is far more complex. Given the importance of the public lands, Native American Tribes, Nevada's culture and economy, and our Nation's military, can the junior Senator from Nevada provide more detail on that history with respect to NTTR?

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, to best answer the Senator's question, it is important to start with the history of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. The

establishment of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge predates the Nevada Test and Training Range and was created by President Franklin Roosevelt on May 20, 1936, via Executive Order 7373.

FDR created the Desert Game Range, as it was known then, to provide habitat and protection for desert bighorn sheep, Nevada's State animal. Originally the Range totaled more than 2.25 million acres, including lands both north and south of U.S. Highway 95.

We know even more today about the value of this area. The Desert National Wildlife Refuge contains six mountain ranges and seven distinct life zones, with elevations ranging from 2,200 feet to nearly 10,000 feet. The variations in elevation and rainfall have created diverse habitats, necessary for its hundreds of species of native flora and fauna to live and flourish. There are currently two species listed as endangered or threatened: notably the Pahrump Poolfish and the Desert Tortoise. This area was under the joint administration of the Bureau of Fisheries, the predecessor to the Fish and Wildlife Service—USFWS—which was not created until 1940, and the Bureau of Land Management—BLM.

Today, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge is the largest wildlife refuge outside Alaska. The Refuge has gone through various legislative boundary adjustments and currently encompasses 1.615 million acres of the Mojave Desert. Public Land Order 4079, issued on August 26, 1966, and corrected on September 23, 1966, revoked EO 7373. This PLO changed the name to the Desert National Wildlife Range, reduced its size to 1.588 million acres, and transferred sole administration to the USFWS. Lands withdrawn in PLO 4079 were set aside specifically for the protection, enhancement, and maintenance of wildlife resources, including bighorn sheep. Then, in 1974, as part of a Wilderness review required by the Wilderness Act of 1964, 1.3 million acres of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge were proposed as Wilderness by USFWS. This history is important, but these lands also remain central to Native American Tribes in Nevada.

Could the senior Senator from Nevada expand upon their importance?

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I thank the junior Senator for her question and would begin by noting that the mountains of southern Nevada are sacred lands, where Native Americans carved their stories onto its mountains and cliffs and left artifacts which detail how they lived and thrived. The bighorn sheep which are central to this area are sacred to Nevada's Native American Tribes, including the Moapa Band of Paiutes, who

are among the most acutely impacted by these public policy questions raised by Senator ROSEN. The creation story told by the Moapa Band of Paiutes include references to bighorn sheep, and the Las Vegas Paiutes also regard the Desert National Wildlife Refuge as culturally significant. With the history of the Refuge properly established, can my colleague, a former member of the House Armed Services Committee, help provide history on NTTR?

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, the history of NTTR begins in the 1940s when it was known as the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range, later changed to the Nellis Air Force Range in October 1987, and finally to NTTR in August 2003.

The NTTR is a military training area consisting of approximately 2.9 million acres of Federal land used by the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base in southern Nevada. The NTTR includes a "simulated Integrated Air Defense System" and several individual ranges with 12,000 targets. The NTTR area has been used for aerial gunnery and bombing, nuclear tests, as a proving ground and flight test area, and for aircraft control and warning exercises.

These 2.9 million acres have been withdrawn from public use and reserved for military use, including the approximately 842,254 acres of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge land that overlaps with the NTTR. The legislative history surrounding this history begins in 1940, with Executive Order 8578 giving the military joint administration with USFWS of the western half of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, for war purposes and restricting public access. The NTTR land withdrawals were extended in 1962, with the issuance of PLO 2613, and in 1986, the withdrawals were extended for another 15 years with P.L. 99-606. Most recently, the withdrawals, were again extended through 2021, with P.L. 106-65 signed in 1999.

This law in 1999, included as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000—P.L. 106-65—transferred primary jurisdiction of 110,000 acres of bombing impact areas on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge from the USFWS to the Department of Defense. These lands were reserved for use by the Secretary of the Air Force as an armament and high hazard testing area; for training for aerial gunnery, rocketry, electronic warfare, and tactical maneuvering and air support; and for equipment and tactics development and testing.

More recently, in 2014, the House of Representatives considered legislation, H.R. 4253, which proposed repealing the existing withdrawals found in section

3015 in P.L. 106-65. Furthermore, the legislation would have permanently transferred administrative jurisdiction of the withdrawn lands in Nevada and put them under control of the Air Force. This same provision was again included in the 2015 NDAA, H.R. 1735, which was ultimately vetoed by President Obama. In 2018, the House of Representatives included provisions which would have again attempted to repeal the existing withdrawals found in Section 3015 in P.L. 106-65 and permanently transferred administrative jurisdiction of the withdrawn lands to the Air Force.

With that history established, can Senator Cortez Masto provide the history behind the legislation that is still under consideration by the Congress?

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I appreciate that question, because the process by which we find ourselves considering this legislation began on August 25, 2016, when the Air Force published a notice in the Federal Register to notify the public that it would begin preparing a legislative environmental impact statement related to the NTTR. This process, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, kicked off public, Native American, and government agency engagement on any potential expansion of the NTTR.

The outreach and scoping process on the proposed update to the legislative environmental impact statement was flawed from the beginning. For instance, in a letter dated March 8, 2018, Nevada's former Governor Brian Sandoval, a Republican, wrote to the Air Force that "during the preparation of the legislative environmental impact statement, there was little interaction with our state agencies" and that "better coordination with the Nevada Department of Wildlife would have led to a more complete analysis and an opportunity to develop a compromise alternative that would both enhance training opportunities for the Air Force and continue to provide essential protections for Nevada's wildlife and outdoor recreational experiences." Unfortunately, the process for incorporating concerns expressed with the Air Force's plans for the NTTR have not improved over time. All told, more than 30,000 comments were submitted to the Air Force during their consideration of the legislative environmental impact statement, but these concerns were largely ignored by the Air Force and left unaddressed in the final documents released by the Air Force in October 2018.

The issue was considered by the 80th session of the Nevada Legislature which, on a nearly unanimous basis, passed Assembly Joint Resolution 2—AJR 2. AJR2 strongly urged Congress to "reject any proposal by the United States Air Force to expand its use of land or exercise of jurisdiction within the Desert National Wildlife Refuge beyond that which it currently possesses and to limit any proposal to extend the Air Force's authority over the Nevada

Test and Training Range to not more than 20 years." The legislature further urged Congress "to work collaboratively with all interested parties to develop a compromise alternative that would both enhance training opportunities for the United States Air Force and continue to provide essential protections for Nevada's wildlife and outdoor recreational experiences for Nevadans and visitors."

The inability for the legislative environmental impact statement to yield a consensus, compromise proposal was a major factor in my decision to begin developing my own legislation on this subject with my colleagues in the Nevada congressional delegation. My goal was to find a solution that would allow the Air Force to modernize its training while also respecting and preserving one of the country's largest wildlife refuges. This process included extensive discussions and engagement with Nevada stakeholders including Tribal communities, conservationists, sportsmen and hunters, private landowners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Air Force.

Among other items, our legislation, S. 3145, firmly establishes public access to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, provides that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintain primary jurisdiction over the entirety of the Refuge, preserves Fish and Wildlife Service jurisdiction on Refuge lands east of the historic Alamo/Old Corn Creek Road, creates several Wilderness areas, and establishes an interagency committee for resolving management conflicts between the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It also allows for the Air Force, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, to place up to 15 threat emitters to maximize and enhance realistic pilot training, provides a buffer zone west of the historic Alamo/Old Corn Creek Road, and provides a modest expansion of the NTTR to facilitate increased training activity on an additional 86,000 acres.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I thank the senior Senator for her comprehensive answer. As I have previously stated, I am hopeful this bipartisan compromise legislation will help resolve land management conflicts, preserve public access to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and serve to strengthen our national security. I have met with environmental advocates, Tribal leaders, and Air Force senior leadership on this issue. I will continue working with our local stakeholders—including military leaders, environmental and wildlife advocates, and members of Nevada's Tribal communities—to make sure all voices are heard.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator's partnership on this matter and share the Senator's commitment to ensuring an effective answer to the previously noted public policy questions. While the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 that was approved by the

Senate on July 23, 2020, does not address the breadth of issues covered in our legislation, I hope it will provide an impetus for continued engagement so that we can build momentum within Congress, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, and in Nevada for our bill. I will, and I am sure I speak for my colleagues in the Nevada delegation on this matter, commit to work with any and all reasonable parties on this matter. I hope that we can solve this matter with an eye towards its history in Nevada, our commitment to Native American Tribes, our precious public lands, our men and women in uniform, and our national security.

In addition, I would like to recognize Congressman HORSFORD and the other members of the Nevada congressional delegation for their efforts in the House to ensure that impacted Nevadan stakeholders will be properly engaged and have a voice in the management and of the Federal lands on which the Air Force operates in southern Nevada. His efforts will help guarantee improved decision making and collaboration amongst the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Air Force as it pertains to the joint use of the Nevada Test and Training Range and Desert National Wildlife Refuge. I welcome his contributions in a final product approved by the full Congress.

Would the junior Senator also care to comment on section 2861?

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator. As previously noted, section 2861 provides for a 20-year extension of the public land withdrawals specific to the Fallon Range Training Complex which is utilized by the U.S. Navy. Just like with section 2862, while this provision of the bill before us seems relatively simple, the underlying issues presented by the Fallon Range Training Complex present a range of complicated issues centered upon public lands, sovereign Tribal governments in Nevada and environmental justice, public access and recreation, energy and transportation infrastructure, and the ability for future economic development.

Could the senior Senator from Nevada provide more detail on some of this underlying history which helps make section 2861 so important to our constituents?

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I thank the junior Senator for the question. To begin, as before, it is important to understand the larger history in this area of Nevada before one can reasonably understand the magnitude of historical issues at play.

The military's history in Fallon dates back to 1942 when the Civil Aviation Administration and Army Corps of Aviation began construction of an airfield as part of the Western Defense Program. The Navy assumed control in 1943, and the following year, Naval Auxiliary Air Station Fallon was commissioned. In the early 1950s, additional training ranges were established

under Public Land Order 898 which withdrew 56,011 acres of public land for military use. In 1986—P.L. 99-606—and 1999—P.L. 106-65—Congress enacted legislation on this general subject by withdrawing additional public lands for military activities. The law passed in 1999 was especially noteworthy. This law represented a major change to the local customs, culture, and economy because it withdrew approximately 201,933 acres of land for military use for 20 years. The Fallon Range Training Complex now encompasses more than 230,000 acres of public land because of numerous map revisions and land surveys by the BLM since 1999. These land withdrawals, which took effect on November 6, 2001, expire on November 5, 2021, absent congressional reauthorization.

While this history is important, it is also important to understand that the history in this area did not begin when the military became an integral part of the community. One such example is the Walker River Paiute Tribe, a federally recognized sovereign nation. One range, Bravo 19, of the larger Fallon Range Training Complex, is located directly adjacent to WRPT reservation land and the Navy, as far back as 1942, has conducted military testing and training on lands adjacent to the WRPT reservation. The National Congress of American Indians—NCAI—go into more detail on the close physical proximity between these entities in Resolution No. ECWS-19004. The NCAI notes that the Walker River Paiute reservation land is “south and adjacent to Bravo 19, which is one of the training areas for Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon” and that the “Navy has encumbered tribal land (est. 6,000 acres), which has been contaminated with live ordnance, caused historical damage to range wells and facilities and has left such land useless as this land cannot be totally cleaned up of ordnance and bombs.”

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe has an equally important mark on the history of this unique area in northern Nevada. As detailed by the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada in Resolution 06-ITCN-19, the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe is federally recognized and have lived, hunted, and prayed on their ancestral lands which encompass many significant areas in this region of the Silver State. This has resulted in a range of issues for the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, including, but not limited to, access to traditional lands, including spiritual and cultural sites. These impacts are not trivial to the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, but it should be noted that the current Chairman of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Len George, published a piece in their March 2020 Tribal newsletter expressing his support for reauthorization of the existing withdrawn lands, but not for the expansion as proposed by the Navy.

The broader community in and around NAS Fallon also has a long his-

tory with this military base. Churchill County and the city of Fallon are the proud home of NAS Fallon, and both want to remain the proud home of NAS Fallon. That being said, this military base and training range is only one part of a larger community which each have to work together to balance its activities on public land against a range of other interrelated activities such as agriculture, clean energy development, hunting, outdoor recreation, and mining.

Given these factors, it is easy to understand the amount of attention the Department of Navy received in August of 2016 when it published its notice in the Federal Register that it was initiating its process under the National Environmental Policy Act to “assess the potential environmental consequences of maintaining and modernizing the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) in Nevada, which would include land range expansion through additional land withdrawal and land acquisition, airspace modifications, and public land withdrawal renewal.” Scoping meetings drew hundreds of attendees, and the Navy’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement resulted in the submission of nearly 1,500 unique comments. Unfortunately, the robust scoping meetings and good-faith efforts to work together ultimately has not fully resolved some of the fundamental issues with the Navy’s proposal. The shortcomings of this process have been apparent and was captured in 2018 by our former and our current Governor in letters sent to the Navy in December 2018 and November 2019. Since then, the Navy has undertaken a serious effort to understand local concerns through a series of ongoing discussions and pledged commitments.

The National Environmental Policy Act process was subsequently completed in March of 2020 with a signed Record of Decision from the Navy. The Navy’s ROD proposes an expansion that includes approximately 600,000 acres of public land and approximately 66,000 acres of private land located primarily in Churchill County, but affecting a total of five counties. When considering associated airspace modifications, the Navy’s proposal will affect over half of all Nevada counties. While affected counties, Tribes, and State agencies worked with the Navy to identify key assurances in the ROD, which reflected the Navy’s serious engagement, the ROD could not and did not alleviate all concerns.

Shortly before the Navy made their decision in March of 2020, Senator ROSEN, Congressman HORSFORD, and I wrote a letter to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees where we noted that the lack of consensus left us with “no choice other than to initiate our own process to gather input from as many of our constituents as possible.”

With regards to both sections of the National Defense Authorization Act, we continue to seek that consensus,

and I would note in particular that Governor Sisolak and his administration have been helpful with this effort, especially in working with affected counties and the Nevada Association of Counties to bring State agencies, local governments, and Tribes together. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Churchill County which also worked with the State and the aforementioned stakeholders to collaboratively compile a list of outstanding concerns and suggested means of addressing those concerns with the Navy’s proposal. The combined efforts from stakeholders in our State has been an invaluable resource.

In the meantime, I appreciate that this bill does not attempt to force a solution upon the Silver State which has virtually no support from my constituents. Rather, by authorizing new 20-year extensions of the public land withdrawals, it removes uncertainty by reinforcing the critical mission of the U.S. military in Nevada and its efforts to modernize while enabling Federal, State, local, and Tribal stakeholders to continue their dialogue to find the right way forward.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for her leadership on this matter and share her commitment to working together with our constituents in Nevada to reach a consensus proposal. While critical concerns remain, Nevada’s congressional delegation has a long history of finding pragmatic solutions to public land challenges, and I look forward to working with Senator CORTEZ MASTO, Congressman AMODEI, and the rest of the delegation to continue this tradition.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for her partnership.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 451. An act to repeal the requirement to reallocate and auction the T-Band spectrum, to amend the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 to clarify acceptable 9-1-1 obligations or expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3798. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on co-payments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4983. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gilbert, Arizona, as the "Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 7105. An act to provide flexibility for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a retraining assistance program for unemployed veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 7347. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE FROM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

On request by Senator DUCKWORTH, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Commerce: Gregory Autry, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, vice Jeffrey DeWitt.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5561. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis: Importation of Cattle and Bison" (RIN0579-AD65) (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5562. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking Administration Actions Pending Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Processing" (RIN0584-AE63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5563. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: 2008 Farm Bill Provisions on Clarification of Split Issuance; Accrual of Benefits and Definition Changes" (RIN0584-AE02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5564. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Final Rule; Designation of Isle of Shoals North as an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site for the Southern Maine, New Hampshire, and Northern Massachusetts Coastal Region" (FRL No. 10014-99-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5565. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Revoked 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Updates to 40 CFR Part 52 for Areas that Attained by the Attainment Date" (FRL No. 10013-72-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5566. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-1.5e)" (FRL No. 10013-34-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5567. A communication from the Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska during the 2020 Season" (RIN1018-BE24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5568. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Maine; Midcoast Area and Portland Second 10-Year Limited Maintenance Plans for 1997 Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 10014-81-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5569. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the West Virginia Portion of the Parkersburg-Marietta, West Virginia-Ohio Area Comprising Wood County" (FRL No. 10014-80-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5570. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Environmental Protection Agency Acquisition Regulation (EPAAR)" (FRL No. 10012-65-OMS) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5571. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4462. A bill to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-269).

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2912. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land located in Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-270).

S. 3948. A bill to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-271).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 4681. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate certain limitations with respect to pre-production plastic pellet pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4682. A bill to provide grants for local care corps programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 4683. A bill to designate the Battleship IOWA Museum, located in Los Angeles, California, as the National Museum of the Surface Navy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BARASSO):

S. 4684. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, as the "Robert L. Brown Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4685. A bill to prohibit assistance to foreign governments that violate human rights with respect to religious freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4686. A bill to recognize the refugee and immigrant communities from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam including the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Americans who supported and defended the Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia, authorize assistance to support activities relating to clearance of unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4687. A bill to expand domestic content requirements for certain shipboard components, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4688. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to provide funding to sustain and increase the supply, quality, and affordability of child care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4689. A bill to provide disaster assistance to cannabis businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 4690. A bill to increase vaccination rates among pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 4691. A bill to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 4692. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to provide procedures for guidance issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 4693. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide requirements for agency decision making based on science; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. RISCH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 4694. A bill to extend and expand limitations on the importation of uranium from the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 4695. A bill to amend section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that any hours worked by Federal firefighters under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be excluded for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 4696. A bill to provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance to the University of Alaska of certain public land in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4697. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional transparency and consumer protections relating to medical debt collection practices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 4698. A bill to amend the Act of August 10, 1956, to provide for the payment of pay and allowances for certain officers of the Army who are assigned to the Corps of Engineers; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 4699. A bill to reauthorize and limit the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 4700. A bill to establish a Center for Artificial Intelligence of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4701. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 with respect to future interstate designations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 4702. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage appropriate prescribing under Medicaid for victims of opioid overdose; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 4703. A bill to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 4704. A bill to require reforms to programs of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4705. A bill to amend title XIX requiring coverage under Medicaid of vaccines for pregnant women; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 4706. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 with respect to the Louie B. Nunn (Cumberland) Parkway, to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify a provision relating to the operation of vehicles on that highway, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 4707. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to provide Federal standards for mail-in ballots and reporting of election results with respect to elections for Federal office; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 4708. A bill to establish a commission to review certain regulatory obstacles to preparedness for, response to, and recovery from the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and other pandemics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4709. A bill to permit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-recognized virtual diabetes prevention program suppliers to be included in the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Expanded Model conducted by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation under section 1115A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a); to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. STABENOW,

Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4710. A bill to obtain and direct the placement in the Capitol or on the Capitol Grounds of a monument to honor Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Ruth Bader Ginsburg; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 4711. A bill to provide for judicial security and privacy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 4712. A bill to enhance the consideration of human rights in arms exports; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 4713. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt a portion of unemployment compensation received during 2020 from income taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 4714. A bill to preserve health benefits for workers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 4715. A bill to grant Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 4716. A bill to establish a cause of action for those harmed by exposure to water at Camp Lejeune, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 4717. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment of certain Medicaid providers across State lines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 4718. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to make fraudulent dealings in firearms and ammunition unlawful, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4719. A bill to provide, temporarily, authority for the Secretary of Commerce to waive cost sharing requirements for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 4720. A bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify certain agricultural exemptions for hours of service requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. LOEFFLER:

S. 4721. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to increase the criminal penalties under such Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 4722. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a standard of care

for the selection by certain entities of motor carries; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 4723. A bill to establish a regulatory system for sustainable offshore aquaculture in the United States exclusive economic zone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 4724. A bill to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 4725. A bill to establish programs to facilitate the commercial application of clean energy and related technologies in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 4726. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to require the Secretary of Transportation to develop and carry out a program to improve energy efficiency in transportation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 4727. A bill to require the establishment of an advanced energy technology research initiative and an advanced energy technology and modeling grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 4728. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to officials of the Government of the Russian Federation complicit in the poisoning of its citizens for political motives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 4729. A bill to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4730. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the Nineteenth Amendment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4731. A bill to require the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish cybersecurity guidance for small organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. REED):

S. 4732. A bill to conduct a study on the spread of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation on the internet and social media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 4733. A bill to designate the National Service Animals Monument to recognize the heroic deeds and sacrifices of service animals and handlers of service animals in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4734. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the appli-

cation of Medicare secondary payer rules to certain workers' compensation settlement agreements and qualified Medicare set-aside provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 4735. A bill to address recommendations made to Congress by the Government Accountability Office as detailed in its annual report on duplication, fragmentation, and overlap, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4736. A bill to prepare the United States for the impacts of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 4737. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to covered health departments to increase the rate of recommended immunizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4738. A bill to provide a right to flexibility and to broaden and increase employee protections at work, to protect small businesses through shared responsibility for workers' rights, to provide public transparency on workers' rights violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. COTTON):

S. Res. 715. A resolution expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 716. A resolution designating the week of October 5 through October 9, 2020, as "Malnutrition Awareness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 717. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 25, 2020, as "National Ataxia Awareness Day", and raising awareness of ataxia, ataxia research, and the search for a cure; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 718. A resolution reaffirming the Senate's commitment to the orderly and

peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 719. A resolution recognizing September 22, 2020, as "National Voter Registration Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 720. A resolution designating October 8, 2020, as "National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 721. A resolution designating the week beginning October 18, 2020, as "National Character Counts Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 722. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CARPER):

S. Res. 723. A resolution designating September 2020 as "Campus Fire Safety Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 724. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the practice of politically motivated imprisonment of women around the world and calling on governments for the immediate release of women who are political prisoners; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. JONES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 725. A resolution establishing the Senate Human Rights Commission; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 428

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

S. 1626

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1626, a bill to require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to estimate the value of electromagnetic spectrum assigned or otherwise allocated to Federal entities.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

S. 2001

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2001, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 2561

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2561, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 3072

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3072, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3144

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3144, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to support out-of-school-time youth workforce readiness programs, providing employability skills development, career exploration, employment readiness training, mentoring, work-based learning, and workforce opportunities for eligible youth.

S. 3263

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3263, a bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes.

S. 3513

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3513, a bill to provide Americans with paid sick time and paid leave so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 3517

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Sen-

ator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3517, a bill to increase the ability of nursing facilities to access to telehealth services and obtain technologies to allow virtual visits during the public health emergency relating to an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and for other purposes.

S. 3748

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3748, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 3998

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3998, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to simplify payments for telehealth services furnished by Federally qualified health centers or rural health clinics under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 3999

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3999, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure access to mental health and behavioral health services furnished through telehealth under the Medicare program.

S. 4063

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4063, a bill to provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2022 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2021 application.

S. 4112

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4112, a bill to support education and child care during the COVID-19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 4150

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4150, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide assistance to certain providers of transportation services affected by the novel coronavirus.

S. 4357

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4357, a bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Re-

newable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to promote reforestation following unplanned events on Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 4375

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4375, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

S. 4384

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4384, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to address exposure by members of the Armed Forces to toxic substances at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, and for other purposes.

S. 4421

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4421, a bill to provide temporary licensing reciprocity for telehealth and interstate health care treatment.

S. 4487

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4487, a bill to extend limits on discretionary spending through fiscal year 2024.

S. 4547

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4547, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by requiring uniform safety and performance standards, including a horseracing anti-doping and medication control program and a racetrack safety program to be developed and enforced by an independent Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, and for other purposes.

S. 4564

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 4564, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 4600

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4600, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the responses of the Department of Defense to sex-related offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 4634

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr.

ROMNEY), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4634, a bill to provide support for air carrier workers, and for other purposes.

S. 4662

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4662, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize blocking law enforcement officers who have been injured by a criminal act or in the line of duty from accessing emergency medical services.

S.J. RES. 14

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 14, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of not more than 9 justices.

S. RES. 679

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 679, a resolution expressing appreciation and support for essential employees with disabilities or who are blind during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

S. RES. 689

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 689, a resolution condemning the crackdown on peaceful protestors in Belarus and calling for the imposition of sanctions on responsible officials.

S. RES. 701

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 701, a resolution urging the Government of Burma to hold free, fair, inclusive, transparent, participatory, and credible elections on November 8, 2020.

S. RES. 709

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 709, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the August 13, 2020, and September 11, 2020, announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain are historic achievements.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 4683. A bill to designate the Battleship IOWA Museum, located in Los Angeles, California, as the National Mu-

seum of the Surface Navy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the "Battleship Iowa National Museum of the Surface Navy Act of 2020," which I introduced today.

This simple bill would designate the Battleship USS Iowa Museum located in Los Angeles, California as the "National Museum of the Surface Navy."

The Battleship USS Iowa Museum would be the official museum to honor the millions of Americans who have proudly served and continue to serve in the United States Surface Navy since the founding of the Navy on October 13, 1775.

The Battleship USS *Iowa* is an iconic ship that served as a home to hundreds of thousands of sailors from all 50 States. Commissioned in 1943, the Battleship *Iowa* has received accolades as the "World's Greatest Navy Ship" and had several namesakes including the "Mighty I" and the "Big Stick," which referred to President Teddy Roosevelt's famous adage: "Speak softly and carry a big stick."

The USS *Iowa* was also known as the "Battleship of Presidents." In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used the ship for meetings with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin. President George H.W. Bush re-commissioned the USS *Iowa* in 1984 while serving as Vice President of the United States. Prior to the USS *Iowa*'s decommissioning in 1990, President Ronald Reagan used the ship for our Nation's Celebration of Liberty in New York City on July 4, 1986.

The USS *Iowa* earned nine battle stars for service in World War II and two for service during the Korean War. The ship was also awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Navy Occupation Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Navy "E" Ribbon—four times.

In 2012, the Navy donated the Battleship *Iowa* to the Pacific Battleship Center, which established the Battleship USS Iowa Museum at the Port of Los Angeles. Since its opening, the Museum has welcomed millions of visitors.

The Museum also hosts numerous military activities including enlistments, re-enlistments, commissionings, promotions, and community service days. The museum also provides on-site training for Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the museum has closed all of its indoor exhibits and has struggled to attract visitors. As a non-profit organization the museum is supported solely by admissions, donations, event space rentals, and the gift shops.

How the bill would help: Our bill would designate the USS Battleship Iowa Museum as the "National Museum of the Surface Navy" to raise

awareness and educate the public on the important role of the United States Surface Navy.

The "National Museum of the Surface Navy" would build on the success of the Battleship USS Iowa Museum by introducing new exhibits and programs with a focus on education, veterans, and community.

Conclusion: It is imperative that we preserve the legacy of those who have served on the Battleship USS *Iowa* and all Surface Navy ships. I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. Thank you Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 4684. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, as the "Robert L. Brown Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to introduce a bill to honor the late Robert L. Brown of Thermopolis, WY.

Robert Brown was a lifelong resident of Thermopolis, WY, and he exemplified Wyoming's values and a commitment to public service.

After graduating from Thermopolis High School, Bob was inducted into the Army in 1944, and he served in both the Europe and Pacific theaters. Later, in 1950, when he was part of the National Guard, Bob deployed to Korea, where he was a member of the 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

He served in World War II, in both theaters, and then in Korea. The United States was poorly prepared for Korea, downsizing the military after the Second World War. The National Guard responded with little or no training or equipment.

Bob Brown went to another war. He earned a Unit Citation. He received the Combat Infantry Badge and the Purple Heart.

Upon returning to Thermopolis, Bob began a career with the U.S. Postal Service. That career spanned 44 years, including many years as postmaster. I hope John will tell more of the postal love affair and how Bob Brown met and courted the person who picked up the mail. That lady later became my first Sunday school teacher.

Bob passed away earlier this month. At 94 years of age, he did have some health issues, but he had a devoted daughter, Bobbi Brown Barrasso, wife of Senator BARRASSO, who had been Senator Thomas' State director. She was her dad's caregiver. She took care of him in Casper as well as Thermopolis. She drove him back and forth wherever he wanted or needed to go, which meant especially back and forth to needed clinics with doctors in Thermopolis and in Casper. When COVID happened, she stayed with him and protected him.

Bob Brown will be sorely missed in his community, and I can think of no

better way to honor someone with such a long and storied career with the U.S. Postal Service, as well as with the people of Thermopolis, than to introduce this bill to name the Thermopolis post office after him.

That historic building holds the memories of a veteran who came home to work and spent his entire career in that building, winding up as postmaster.

The lead Democratic cosponsor of this bipartisan bill is Senator TOM CARPER, who is the strongest advocate I know of for the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague Senator ENZI for allowing me to be his wingman on this particular postal naming bill.

I never met Robert Brown. I certainly know his daughter Bobbi, and I certainly know his son-in-law, JOHN BARRASSO, my colleague.

Just listening to what Senator ENZI has said—service in World War II, service in the Korean war, service in the U.S. Postal Service—that is a lifetime of service. That is a lifetime of service.

In my own family, my dad and my uncles all served in World War II, a number in Korea as well, and a cousin in the U.S. Postal Service for many years. I like to say—I know this isn't original to me—that service to others is the rent we pay for the space we take up on this Earth. Think about that. Service to others is the rent we pay for the space we take up on this Earth.

I would say to Robert L. Brown, if you are listening—I think you probably are—thank you for your extraordinary service, and thank you for Bobbi. And we ought to thank Bobbi, your daughter, Mr. BROWN, for sharing your husband with us. He is a good man. It is a good package, and we are grateful for that.

None of us can live forever. Senator BARRASSO was telling me—gosh—not even a month ago about driving his father-in-law I think it was 400 miles or something from Wyoming up to maybe Montana for medical care, medical attention. I thought: What an extraordinary act of love and kindness. I don't think his death was imminent at the time, but it was a great opportunity, I bet, for the two of them to just renew and bond one more time.

It is sad to say good-bye. None of us can live forever, though, and for those who lived lives of service like Bobbi's dad, we just say this, especially in Navy talk—I am a retired Navy captain, Vietnam veteran. In the Navy, we like to say of folks in the Army: Different uniform, same team.

When folks do extraordinary things in service to our country, whether it is in uniform of the Army or whether it is in uniform of the Navy or the Postal Service, we say Bravo Zulu. Bravo Zulu.

Thank you for allowing me to join you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. First, Mr. President, I would like to express my deep appreciation, admiration, and respect to both Senator ENZI and Senator CARPER for introducing this legislation to honor Bob Brown. There he is. This is actually a picture of us. I am next to him.

When you look at that smile, that is a smile that is as beautiful as the sunrise, as welcoming as a rainbow. What a wonderful man.

He was known by many in Thermopolis as Bob Brown, the nicest guy in town. It was his hometown, and it stayed with him from high school—1943.

This Greatest Generation, Mike and Tom, as veterans—having worn the uniform, borne the battle—know that we are losing the Greatest Generation so rapidly. What a generation—World War II, the European theater, the Pacific theater, returning home, working in the post office.

As Senator ENZI said, he was a postal clerk. There was a young lady, Jeralyn, who worked at the local bank, and she would come every day to pick up the mail. She caught his eye, he caught her eye, and they lived and married and were together for 70 years—70 years. They had two wonderful children—Mike Brown and my wife, Bobbi—and a granddaughter, who really was the apple of their eye, Hadley.

But this group—World War II and Korea, as the Senators both mentioned—in the Korean war, Bob was part of the 300th, the Cowboy Cannoners, an incredible unit—Unit Bravery Citation. He was awarded the Purple Heart. He never talked about it. He was very humble.

He returned to Thermopolis, just took care of people in the community, to the point of serving as postmaster for many of his 44 years at the post office. People knew him, loved him, and admired him.

I know that Mike had a chance to talk to the postmaster in Thermopolis yesterday about what we were going to do. She had actually known Bob, as anyone in town had, and was very grateful for having known him.

Last year Bob and Jerry celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. We lost Jerry this spring, and on 9/11 we lost Bob. He passed away at the age of 94. He was surrounded by his loving family. And his daughter Bobbi truly is, as Senator ENZI said, the caregiver. I say she is a saint. People who know her know that to be true.

As we talk about this Greatest Generation, of which Bob was a very significant part, we can think back to the history of this country.

Mr. President, in the Chair, you are a marine, and you know this. It reminds me of the speech that Abraham Lincoln gave during his first year as President in the White House. On the Fourth of July, there was a flag-raising ceremony, and he gave a very short speech. The speech that Lincoln gave that day was: It is my job to raise the flag. And

then to everyone else there, he said: And it is your job to keep it up.

Like you, Mr. President; you, Senator ENZI; you, Senator CARPER—Bob Brown was one to keep it up.

Since we have bipartisan cosponsors and sponsors of this legislation, let me then talk about JOHN KENNEDY, who at his inaugural talked about this Nation being willing to pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, and oppose any foe. That is Bob Brown, all-American.

Ronald Reagan talked about the fact that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not something that we inherited in the bloodstream. It is something that has to be fought for, protected, defended, and then handed down to the next generation to do the same. And that is Bob Brown.

This year is Wyoming's 130th birthday, turned 130 this summer. So, 30 years ago, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Wyoming, and George Herbert Walker Bush, then-President of the United States, came to Wyoming to talk about Wyoming and its history. He said: Wyoming is a very special and sacred place. And he said: The values and divisions of Wyoming continue to inspire America.

Bob Brown's values and his vision continue to inspire everyone who was ever privileged to know him. May he rest in peace.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to add one thought. I was about to run and jump in my minivan and head to Delaware. The thought occurred to me, your father-in-law served all those years in uniform with the Army and then many more years in uniform with the Postal Service.

I want to say to the men and women who serve in the Postal Service today, around the country and, literally, around the world—to the men and women who are serving in uniform, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard—I just want to say to the Postal Service, thank you for enabling our men and women in service, in uniform, who are serving around the world, to actually vote this year.

When I was a naval flight officer in Southeast Asia during my first and third tour, I was in a P-3 squadron, and we did service surveillance for engineer aircraft—land base, South China Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, and off the coast of Vietnam. I was asked by my commanding officer to be the voting officer—and not once but in 1970 and again in 1972. We had 300 men. We had no women in our squadron then. But my job was to get 300 men signed up, registered to vote in their States—and they are from all over the country—and I did the same thing again in 1972.

It was a source of great joy to me to know that we were able to exercise our right to vote on the other side of the world and made possible by the Postal Service.

That thought occurred because your dad has been both on the sending and receiving side as a member of the Army and at the Postal Service.

May he rest in peace. God bless.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 4703. A bill to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the "West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act," which I introduced today. Representative TED LIEU (D-CA) has introduced similar legislation in the House.

In 1888, the 388-acre parcel that is now home to the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center was deeded to the Federal government by Arcadia Bandini de Stearns Baker and Senator John P. Jones, to establish a home for disabled Veterans (civil war Veterans, at the time).

For nearly a century, the land served primarily to house Veterans, and the campus long represented the largest Veteran housing development in the nation. In the early 1970s, 2,800 Veterans living on the West LA VA campus were displaced when the Sylmar Earthquake caused major damage on campus. Rather than repair the housing units, the VA eventually leased portions of the property to non-VA tenants.

In 2011, homeless Veterans and advocates sued the VA for illegally leasing facilities on campus and failing to use the property to support Veterans, as required by the original deed.

A U.S. District Court subsequently ruled that many leases on campus were illegal under the terms of the original deed, and in 2015, the VA agreed to facilitate the development of 1,200 housing units for homeless Veterans on campus.

In 2016, Congress enacted the "West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016" to set up an oversight framework for the housing development and to ensure that lease revenues from ongoing leases stayed on campus.

In 2018, the VA selected a "Principal Developer" to complete housing renovation and construction projects on campus, allowing for a more streamlined and efficient building process.

However, the VA has determined that current law restricts it from contributing to housing construction, maintenance, or services. The VA has determined that clarifying language is needed to ensure that funds generated on campus can be used for these purposes.

Giving VA the flexibility to use locally-generated revenue in this way could significantly reduce the time it takes to get homeless Veterans into housing.

The West LA VA Campus Improvement Act authorizes the VA to use any funds collected pursuant to leases, easements or other use-agreements at

the West LA VA for the development of supportive housing and services on campus.

The bill would also increase the time period for enhanced use leases on the campus from 75 to 99 years. Increasing the length of the leases would align with other leasing terms the VA has, and help reduce the financing costs for new housing.

This year, the regional homelessness count reported that more than 3,900 Veterans are experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles. It is long past time for this land to be returned to its intended purpose: to serve as a home where Veterans can receive the care and treatment they deserve. This bill will help move us closer to that reality.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 4706. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 with respect to the Louie B. Nunn (Cumberland) Parkway, to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify a provision relating to the operation of vehicles on that highway, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4706

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LOUIE B. NUNN (CUMBERLAND) PARKWAY.

(a) DESIGNATION AS HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR.—Section 1105(c) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 105 Stat. 2032; 133 Stat. 3018) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(92) The Louie B. Nunn (Cumberland) Parkway from the interchange with Interstate 65 in Barren County, Kentucky, east to the interchange with U.S. Highway 27 in Somerset, Kentucky."

(b) DESIGNATION AS FUTURE INTERSTATE.—Section 1105(e)(5)(A) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 109 Stat. 597; 133 Stat. 3018) is amended in the first sentence by striking "and subsection (c)(91)" and inserting "subsection (c)(91), and subsection (c)(92)".

(c) NUMBERING OF PARKWAY.—Section 1105(e)(5)(C)(i) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; 109 Stat. 598; 133 Stat. 3018) is amended by adding at the end the following: "The route referred to in subsection (c)(92) is designated as Interstate Route I-365."

(d) OPERATION OF VEHICLES.—Section 127(1)(3)(A) of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), in the first sentence, by striking "clauses (i) through (iv) of this subparagraph" and inserting "clauses (i) through (v)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(v) The Louie B. Nunn (Cumberland) Parkway (to be designated as a spur of Inter-

state Route 65) from the interchange with Interstate 65 in Barren County, Kentucky, east to the interchange with U.S. Highway 27 in Somerset, Kentucky."

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 4713. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt a portion of unemployment compensation received during 2020 from income taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4713

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Coronavirus Unemployment Benefits Tax Relief Act".

SEC. 2. SUSPENSION OF TAX ON PORTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 85 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR 2020.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in 2020, gross income shall not include so much of the unemployment compensation received by an individual as does not exceed \$10,200."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 4714. A bill to preserve health benefits for workers; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4714

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Worker Health Coverage Protection Act".

SEC. 2. PRESERVING HEALTH BENEFITS FOR WORKERS.

(a) PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE AND FURLOUGHED CONTINUATION COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES.—

(1) PROVISION OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—

(A) REDUCTION OF PREMIUMS PAYABLE.—

(i) COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE.—In the case of any premium for a period of coverage during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on January 31, 2021 for COBRA continuation coverage with respect to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(A), such individual shall be treated for purposes of any COBRA continuation provision as having paid the amount of such premium if such individual pays (and

any person other than such individual's employer pays on behalf of such individual) 0 percent of the amount of such premium owed by such individual (as determined without regard to this subsection).

(i) **FURLOUGHED CONTINUATION COVERAGE.**—In the case of any premium for a period of coverage during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on January 31, 2021, for coverage under a group health plan with respect to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(B), such individual shall be treated for purposes of coverage under the plan offered by the plan sponsor in which the individual is enrolled as having paid the amount of such premium if such individual pays (and any person other than such individual's employer pays on behalf of such individual) 0 percent of the amount of such premium owed by such individual (as determined without regard to this subsection).

(B) **PLAN ENROLLMENT OPTION.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the COBRA continuation provisions, any assistance eligible individual who is enrolled in a group health plan offered by a plan sponsor, not later than 90 days after the date of notice of the plan enrollment option described in this subparagraph, may elect to enroll in coverage under a plan offered by such plan sponsor that is different than coverage under the plan in which such individual was enrolled at the time—

(I) in the case of any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(A), the qualifying event specified in section 603(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1163(2)), section 4980B(f)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2203(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-3(2)), or section 8905a of title 5, United States Code (except for the voluntary termination of such individual's employment by such individual), occurred, and such coverage shall be treated as COBRA continuation coverage for purposes of the applicable COBRA continuation coverage provision; or

(II) in the case of any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(B), the furlough period began with respect to such individual.

(ii) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Any assistance eligible individual may elect to enroll in different coverage as described in clause (i) only if—

(I) the employer involved has made a determination that such employer will permit such assistance eligible individual to enroll in different coverage as provided under this subparagraph;

(II) the premium for such different coverage does not exceed the premium for coverage in which such individual was enrolled at the time such qualifying event occurred or immediately before such furlough began;

(III) the different coverage in which the individual elects to enroll is coverage that is also offered to the active employees of the employer, who are not in a furlough period, at the time at which such election is made; and

(IV) the different coverage in which the individual elects to enroll is not—

(aa) coverage that provides only dental, vision, counseling, or referral services (or a combination of such services);

(bb) a qualified small employer health reimbursement arrangement (as defined in section 9831(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

(cc) a flexible spending arrangement (as defined in section 106(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986); or

(dd) benefits that provide coverage for services or treatments furnished in an on-site medical facility maintained by the em-

ployer and that consists primarily of first-aid services, prevention and wellness care, or similar care (or a combination of such care).

(C) **PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT.**—For provisions providing the payment of such premium, see section 6432 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by paragraph (14).

(2) **LIMITATION OF PERIOD OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.**—

(A) **ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL COVERAGE.**—Paragraph (1)(A) shall not apply with respect to—

(i) any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(A) for months of coverage beginning on or after the earlier of—

(I) the first date that such individual is eligible for coverage under any other group health plan (other than coverage consisting of only dental, vision, counseling, or referral services (or a combination thereof), coverage under a flexible spending arrangement (as defined in section 106(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), coverage of treatment that is furnished in an on-site medical facility maintained by the employer and that consists primarily of first-aid services, prevention and wellness care, or similar care (or a combination thereof)), or eligible for benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); or

(II) the earlier of—

(aa) the date following the expiration of the maximum period of continuation coverage required under the applicable COBRA continuation coverage provision; or

(bb) the date following the expiration of the period of continuation coverage allowed under paragraph (4)(B)(ii); or

(ii) any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(B) for months of coverage beginning on or after the earlier of—

(I) the first date that such individual is eligible for coverage under any other group health plan (other than coverage consisting of only dental, vision, counseling, or referral services (or a combination thereof), coverage under a flexible spending arrangement (as defined in section 106(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), coverage of treatment that is furnished in an on-site medical facility maintained by the employer and that consists primarily of first-aid services, prevention and wellness care, or similar care (or a combination thereof)), or eligible for benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); or

(II) the first date that such individual is no longer in the furlough period.

(B) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—Any assistance eligible individual shall notify the group health plan with respect to which paragraph (1)(A) applies if such paragraph ceases to apply by reason of clause (i)(I) or (ii)(I) of subparagraph (A) (as applicable). Such notice shall be provided to the group health plan in such time and manner as may be specified by the Secretary of Labor.

(C) **SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOLLOWING EXPIRATION OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.**—Notwithstanding section 1311 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18031), the expiration of premium assistance pursuant to a limitation specified under subparagraph (A) shall be treated as a qualifying event for which any assistance eligible individual is eligible to enroll in a qualified health plan offered through an Exchange under title I of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18001 et seq.) during a special enrollment period.

(3) **ASSISTANCE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.**—For purposes of this section, the term "assistance eligible individual" means, with respect to a period of coverage during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on January 31, 2021—

(A) any individual that is a qualified beneficiary that—

(i) is eligible for COBRA continuation coverage by reason of a qualifying event specified in section 603(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1163(2)), section 4980B(f)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2203(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-3(2)), or section 8905a of title 5, United States Code (except for the voluntary termination of such individual's employment by such individual); and

(ii) elects such coverage; or

(B) any covered employee that is in a furlough period that remains eligible for coverage under a group health plan offered by the employer of such covered employee.

(4) **EXTENSION OF ELECTION PERIOD AND EFFECT ON COVERAGE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of applying section 605(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1165(a)), section 4980B(f)(5)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2205(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-5(a)), and section 8905a(c)(2) of title 5, United States Code, in the case of—

(i) an individual who does not have an election of COBRA continuation coverage in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act but who would be an assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(A) if such election were so in effect; or

(ii) an individual who elected COBRA continuation coverage on or after March 1, 2020, and discontinued from such coverage before the date of the enactment of this Act,

such individual may elect the COBRA continuation coverage under the COBRA continuation coverage provisions containing such provisions during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending 60 days after the date on which the notification required under paragraph (7)(C) is provided to such individual.

(B) **COMMENCEMENT OF COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE.**—Any COBRA continuation coverage elected by a qualified beneficiary during an extended election period under subparagraph (A)—

(i) shall apply as if such qualified beneficiary had been covered as of the date of a qualifying event specified in section 603(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1163(2)), section 4980B(f)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2203(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-3(2)), or section 8905a of title 5, United States Code, except for the voluntary termination of such beneficiary's employment by such beneficiary, that occurs no earlier than March 1, 2020 (including the treatment of premium payments under paragraph (1)(A) and any cost-sharing requirements for items and services under a group health plan); and

(ii) shall not extend beyond the period of COBRA continuation coverage that would have been required under the applicable COBRA continuation coverage provision if the coverage had been elected as required under such provision.

(5) **EXPEDITED REVIEW OF DENIALS OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.**—In any case in which an individual requests treatment as an assistance eligible individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3) and is denied such treatment by the group health plan, the Secretary of Labor (or the Secretary of Health and Human Services in connection with COBRA continuation coverage which is provided other than pursuant to part 6 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1161 et seq.)), in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall provide for

expedited review of such denial. An individual shall be entitled to such review upon application to such Secretary in such form and manner as shall be provided by such Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Treasury. Such Secretary shall make a determination regarding such individual's eligibility within 15 business days after receipt of such individual's application for review under this paragraph. Either Secretary's determination upon review of the denial shall be *de novo* and shall be the final determination of such Secretary. A reviewing court shall grant deference to such Secretary's determination. The provisions of this paragraph, paragraphs (1) through (4), and paragraphs (7) through (9) shall be treated as provisions of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) for purposes of part 5 of subtitle B of such title.

(6) **DISREGARD OF SUBSIDIES FOR PURPOSES OF FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any premium assistance with respect to an assistance eligible individual under this subsection shall not be considered income, in-kind support, or resources for purposes of determining the eligibility of the recipient (or the recipient's spouse or family) for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance, or any other benefit provided under any Federal program or any program of a State or political subdivision thereof financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.

(7) **COBRA-SPECIFIC NOTICE.**—

(A) **GENERAL NOTICE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of notices provided under section 606(a)(4) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1166(4)), section 4980B(f)(6)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2206(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-6(4)), or section 8905a(f)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, with respect to individuals who, during the period described in paragraph (3), become entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage, the requirements of such provisions shall not be treated as met unless such notices include an additional notification to the recipient a written notice in clear and understandable language of—

(I) the availability of premium assistance with respect to such coverage under this subsection; and

(II) the option to enroll in different coverage if the employer permits assistance eligible individuals described in paragraph (3)(A) to elect enrollment in different coverage (as described in paragraph (1)(B)).

(ii) **ALTERNATIVE NOTICE.**—In the case of COBRA continuation coverage to which the notice provision under such sections does not apply, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall, in consultation with administrators of the group health plans (or other entities) that provide or administer the COBRA continuation coverage involved, provide rules requiring the provision of such notice.

(iii) **FORM.**—The requirement of the additional notification under this subparagraph may be met by amendment of existing notice forms or by inclusion of a separate document with the notice otherwise required.

(B) **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.**—Each additional notification under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) the forms necessary for establishing eligibility for premium assistance under this subsection;

(ii) the name, address, and telephone number necessary to contact the plan administrator and any other person maintaining rel-

evant information in connection with such premium assistance;

(iii) a description of the extended election period provided for in paragraph (4)(A);

(iv) a description of the obligation of the qualified beneficiary under paragraph (2)(B) and the penalty provided under section 6720C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for failure to carry out the obligation;

(v) a description, displayed in a prominent manner, of the qualified beneficiary's right to a reduced premium and any conditions on entitlement to the reduced premium;

(vi) a description of the option of the qualified beneficiary to enroll in different coverage if the employer permits such beneficiary to elect to enroll in such different coverage under paragraph (1)(B); and

(vii) information regarding any Exchange established under title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18001 et seq.) through which a qualified beneficiary may be eligible to enroll in a qualified health plan, including—

(I) the publicly accessible internet website address for such Exchange;

(II) the publicly accessible internet website address for the Find Local Help directory maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services on the healthcare.gov internet website (or a successor website);

(III) a clear explanation that—

(aa) an individual who is eligible for continuation coverage may also be eligible to enroll, with financial assistance, in a qualified health plan offered through such Exchange, but, in the case that such individual elects to enroll in such continuation coverage and subsequently elects to terminate such continuation coverage before the period of such continuation coverage expires, such termination does not initiate a special enrollment period (absent a qualifying event specified in section 603(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1163(2)), section 4980B(f)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2203(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-3(2)), or section 8905a of title 5, United States Code, with respect to such individual); and

(bb) an individual who elects to enroll in continuation coverage will remain eligible to enroll in a qualified health plan offered through such Exchange during an open enrollment period and may be eligible for financial assistance with respect to enrolling in such a qualified health plan;

(IV) information on consumer protections with respect to enrolling in a qualified health plan offered through such Exchange, including the requirement for such a qualified health plan to provide coverage for essential health benefits (as defined in section 1302(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18022(b))) and the requirements applicable to such a qualified health plan under part A of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg et seq.);

(V) information on the availability of financial assistance with respect to enrolling in a qualified health plan, including the maximum income limit for eligibility for the premium tax credit under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(VI) information on any special enrollment periods during which any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(A)(i) may be eligible to enroll, with financial assistance, in a qualified health plan offered through such Exchange (including a special enrollment period for which an individual may be eligible due to the expiration of premium assistance pursuant to a limitation specified under paragraph (2)(A)).

(C) **NOTICE IN CONNECTION WITH EXTENDED ELECTION PERIODS.**—In the case of any assistance eligible individual described in para-

graph (3)(A) (or any individual described in paragraph (4)(A)) who became entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage before the date of the enactment of this Act, the administrator of the applicable group health plan (or other entity) shall provide (within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act) for the additional notification required to be provided under subparagraph (A) and failure to provide such notice shall be treated as a failure to meet the notice requirements under the applicable COBRA continuation provision.

(D) **MODEL NOTICES.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(A)—

(i) the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall prescribe models for the additional notification required under this paragraph (other than the additional notification described in clause (ii)); and

(ii) in the case of any additional notification provided pursuant to subparagraph (A) under section 8905a(f)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe a model for such additional notification.

(8) **FURLOUGH-SPECIFIC NOTICE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(B) who, during the period described in such paragraph, becomes eligible for assistance pursuant to paragraph (1)(A)(ii), the requirements of section 606(a)(4) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1166(4)), section 4980B(f)(6)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2206(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-6(4)), or section 8905a(f)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, shall not be treated as met unless the group health plan administrator, in accordance with the timing requirement specified under subparagraph (B), provides to the individual a written notice in clear and understandable language of—

(i) the availability of premium assistance with respect to such coverage under this subsection;

(ii) the option of the qualified beneficiary to enroll in different coverage if the employer permits such beneficiary to elect to enroll in such different coverage under paragraph (1)(B); and

(iii) the information specified under paragraph (7)(B) (as applicable).

(B) **TIMING SPECIFIED.**—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the timing requirement specified in this subparagraph is—

(i) with respect to such an individual who is within a furlough period during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, 30 days after the date of such enactment; and

(ii) with respect to such an individual who is within a furlough period during the period beginning on the first day after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on January 31, 2021, 30 days after the date of the beginning of such furlough period.

(C) **MODEL NOTICES.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3)(B)—

(i) the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall prescribe models for the notification required under this paragraph (other than the notification described in clause (ii)); and

(ii) in the case of any notification provided pursuant to subparagraph (A) under section 8905a(f)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe a model for such notification.

(9) NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF PERIOD OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any assistance eligible individual, subject to subparagraph (B), the requirements of section 606(a)(4) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1166(4)), section 4980B(f)(6)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2206(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-6(4)), or section 8905a(f)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, shall not be treated as met unless the employer of the individual, during the period specified under subparagraph (C), provides to such individual a written notice in clear and understandable language—

(i) that the premium assistance for such individual will expire soon and the prominent identification of the date of such expiration;

(ii) that such individual may be eligible for coverage without any premium assistance through—

(I) COBRA continuation coverage; or

(II) coverage under a group health plan;

(iii) that the expiration of premium assistance is treated as a qualifying event for which any assistance eligible individual is eligible to enroll in a qualified health plan offered through an Exchange under title I of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18001 et seq.) during a special enrollment period; and

(iv) the information specified in paragraph (7)(B)(vii).

(B) EXCEPTION.—The requirement for the group health plan administrator to provide the written notice under subparagraph (A) shall be waived in the case the premium assistance for such individual expires pursuant to clause (i)(I) or (ii)(I) of paragraph (2)(A).

(C) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the period specified in this subparagraph is, with respect to the date of expiration of premium assistance for any assistance eligible individual pursuant to a limitation requiring a notice under this paragraph, the period beginning on the day that is 45 days before the date of such expiration and ending on the day that is 15 days before the date of such expiration.

(D) MODEL NOTICES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to any assistance eligible individual—

(i) the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall prescribe models for the notification required under this paragraph (other than the notification described in clause (ii)); and

(ii) in the case of any notification provided pursuant to subparagraph (A) under section 8905a(f)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe a model for such notification.

(10) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor may jointly prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this subsection, including the prevention of fraud and abuse under this subsection, except that the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services may prescribe such regulations (including interim final regulations) or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of paragraphs (5), (7), (8), (9), and (11).

(11) OUTREACH.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall provide outreach consisting of public education and enrollment assistance relating to premium assistance provided under this subsection. Such outreach shall target employers, group health

plan administrators, public assistance programs, States, insurers, and other entities as determined appropriate by such Secretaries. Such outreach shall include an initial focus on those individuals electing continuation coverage who are referred to in paragraph (7)(C). Information on such premium assistance, including enrollment, shall also be made available on websites of the Departments of Labor, Treasury, and Health and Human Services.

(B) ENROLLMENT UNDER MEDICARE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide outreach consisting of public education. Such outreach shall target individuals who lose health insurance coverage. Such outreach shall include information regarding enrollment for benefits under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) for purposes of preventing mistaken delays of such enrollment by such individuals, including lifetime penalties for failure of timely enrollment.

(12) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(A) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “administrator” has the meaning given such term in section 3(16)(A) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(B) COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE.—The term “COBRA continuation coverage” means continuation coverage provided pursuant to part 6 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (other than under section 609), title XXII of the Public Health Service Act, section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (other than subsection (f)(1) of such section insofar as it relates to pediatric vaccines), or section 8905a of title 5, United States Code, or under a State program that provides comparable continuation coverage. Such term does not include coverage under a health flexible spending arrangement under a cafeteria plan within the meaning of section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) COBRA CONTINUATION PROVISION.—The term “COBRA continuation provision” means the provisions of law described in subparagraph (B).

(D) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term “covered employee” has the meaning given such term in section 607(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(E) QUALIFIED BENEFICIARY.—The term “qualified beneficiary” has the meaning given such term in section 607(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(F) GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term “group health plan” has the meaning given such term in section 607(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(G) STATE.—The term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(H) PERIOD OF COVERAGE.—Any reference in this subsection to a period of coverage shall be treated as a reference to a monthly or shorter period of coverage with respect to which premiums are charged with respect to such coverage.

(I) PLAN SPONSOR.—The term “plan sponsor” has the meaning given such term in section 3(16)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(J) FURLOUGH PERIOD.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term “furlough period” means, with respect to an individual and an employer of such individual, a period—

(I) beginning with the first month beginning on or after March 1, 2020 and before January 31, 2021, during which such individual’s employer reduces such individual’s work hours (due to a lack of work, funds, or other

nondisciplinary reason) to an amount that is less than 70 percent of the base month amount; and

(II) ending with the earlier of—

(aa) the first month beginning after January 31, 2021; or

(bb) the month following the first month during which work hours of such employee are greater than 80 percent of work hours of the base month amount.

(ii) BASE MONTH AMOUNT.—For purposes of clause (i), the term “base month amount” means, with respect to an individual and an employer of such individual, the greater of—

(I) such individual’s work hours in the month prior (or in the case such individual had no work hours in the month prior and had work hours in the 3 months prior, the last month with work hours within the prior 3 months); and

(II) such individual’s work hours during the period beginning January 1, 2020 and ending January 31, 2020.

(13) REPORTS.—

(A) INTERIM REPORT.—The Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly submit an interim report to the Committee on Education and Labor, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Finance of the Senate regarding the premium assistance provided under this subsection that includes—

(i) the number of individuals provided such assistance as of the date of the report; and

(ii) the total amount of expenditures incurred (with administrative expenditures noted separately) in connection with such assistance as of the date of the report.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—As soon as practicable after the last period of COBRA continuation coverage for which premium assistance is provided under this section, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly submit a final report to each Committee referred to in subparagraph (A) that includes—

(i) the number of individuals provided premium assistance under this section;

(ii) the average dollar amount (monthly and annually) of premium assistance provided to such individuals; and

(iii) the total amount of expenditures incurred (with administrative expenditures noted separately) in connection with premium assistance under this section.

(14) COBRA PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter 65 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 6432. CONTINUATION COVERAGE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The person to whom premiums are payable for continuation coverage under section 2(a)(1) of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by section 3111(a), or so much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(a), for each calendar quarter an amount equal to the premiums not paid by assistance eligible individuals for such coverage by reason of such section 2(a)(1) with respect to such calendar quarter.

“(b) PERSON TO WHOM PREMIUMS ARE PAYABLE.—For purposes of subsection (a), except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, the person to whom premiums are payable under such continuation coverage shall be treated as being—

“(1) in the case of any group health plan which is a multiemployer plan (as defined in section 3(37) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974), the plan,

“(2) in the case of any group health plan not described in paragraph (1)—

“(A) which provides furlough continuation coverage described in section 2(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act or subject to the COBRA continuation provisions contained in—

“(i) this title,

“(ii) the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974,

“(iii) the Public Health Service Act, or

“(iv) title 5, United States Code, or

“(B) under which some or all of the coverage is not provided by insurance, the employer maintaining the plan, and

“(3) in the case of any group health plan not described in paragraph (1) or (2), the insurer providing the coverage under the group health plan.

“(C) LIMITATIONS AND REFUNDABILITY.—

“(1) CREDIT LIMITED TO CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT TAXES.—The credit allowed by subsection (a) with respect to any calendar quarter shall not exceed the tax imposed by section 3111(a), or so much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(a), for such calendar quarter (reduced by any credits allowed under subsections (e) and (f) of section 3111, sections 7001 and 7003 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, section 2301 of the CARES Act, and sections 20204 and 20212 of the COVID-19 Tax Relief Act of 2020 for such quarter) on the wages paid with respect to the employment of all employees of the employer.

“(2) REFUNDABILITY OF EXCESS CREDIT.—

“(A) CREDIT IS REFUNDABLE.—If the amount of the credit under subsection (a) exceeds the limitation of paragraph (1) for any calendar quarter, such excess shall be treated as an overpayment that shall be refunded under sections 6402(a) and 6413(b).

“(B) CREDIT MAY BE ADVANCED.—In anticipation of the credit, including the refundable portion under subparagraph (A), the credit may be advanced, according to forms and instructions provided by the Secretary, up to an amount calculated under subsection (a) through the end of the most recent payroll period in the quarter.

“(C) TREATMENT OF DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall waive any penalty under section 6656 for any failure to make a deposit of the tax imposed by section 3111(a), or so much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(a), if the Secretary determines that such failure was due to the anticipation of the credit allowed under this section.

“(D) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 1324 of title 31, United States Code, any amounts due to an employer under this paragraph shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from a credit provision referred to in subsection (b)(2) of such section.

“(3) LIMITATION ON REIMBURSEMENT FOR FURLOUGHED EMPLOYEES.—In the case of an individual who for any month is an assistance eligible individual described in section 2(a)(3)(B) of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act with respect to any coverage, the credit determined with respect to such individual under subsection (a) for any such month ending during a calendar quarter shall not exceed the amount of premium the individual would have paid for a full month of such coverage for the month preceding the first month for which an individual is such an assistance eligible individual.

“(d) GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘person’ includes any governmental entity or Indian tribal government (as defined in section 139E(c)(1)).

“(e) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—For purposes of chapter 1, the gross income of any

person allowed a credit under this section shall be increased for the taxable year which includes the last day of any calendar quarter with respect to which such credit is allowed by the amount of such credit. No amount for which a credit is allowed under this section shall be taken into account as qualified wages under section 2301 of the CARES Act or as qualified health plan expenses under section 7001(d) or 7003(d) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

“(f) REPORTING.—Each person entitled to reimbursement under subsection (a) for any period shall submit such reports (at such time and in such manner) as the Secretary may require, including—

“(1) an attestation of involuntary termination of employment, reduction of hours, or furloughing, for each assistance eligible individual on the basis of whose termination, reduction of hours, or furloughing entitlement to reimbursement is claimed under subsection (a),

“(2) a report of the amount of payroll taxes offset under subsection (a) for the reporting period, and

“(3) a report containing the TINs of all covered employees, the amount of subsidy reimbursed with respect to each employee, and a designation with respect to each employee as to whether the subsidy reimbursement is for coverage of 1 individual or 2 or more individuals.

“(g) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this section, including—

“(1) the requirement to report information or the establishment of other methods for verifying the correct amounts of reimbursements under this section,

“(2) the application of this section to group health plans that are multiemployer plans (as defined in section 3(37) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974),

“(3) to allow the advance payment of the credit determined under subsection (a), subject to the limitations provided in this section, based on such information as the Secretary shall require,

“(4) to provide for the reconciliation of such advance payment with the amount of the credit at the time of filing the return of tax for the applicable quarter or taxable year, and

“(5) with respect to the application of the credit to third party payors (including professional employer organizations, certified professional employer organizations, or agents under section 3504).”.

(B) SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS HELD HARMLESS.—There are hereby appropriated to the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund established under section 201 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401) and the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account established under section 15A(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231n-1(a)) amounts equal to the reduction in revenues to the Treasury by reason of this section (without regard to this subparagraph). Amounts appropriated by the preceding sentence shall be transferred from the general fund at such times and in such manner as to replicate to the extent possible the transfers which would have occurred to such Trust Fund or Account had this section not been enacted.

(C) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 65 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 6432. Continuation coverage premium assistance.”.

(D) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this paragraph shall apply to premiums to which paragraph (1)(A) applies.

(E) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE OF EMPLOYEE PAYMENT THAT IS NOT REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an assistance eligible individual who pays, with respect any period of coverage to which paragraph (1)(A) applies, the amount of the premium for such coverage that the individual would have (but for this Act) been required to pay, the person to whom such payment is payable shall reimburse such individual for the amount of such premium paid.

(ii) CREDIT OF REIMBURSEMENT.—A person to which clause (i) applies shall be allowed a credit in the manner provided under section 6432 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for any payment made to the employee under such clause.

(iii) PAYMENT OF CREDITS.—Any person to which clause (i) applies shall make the payment required under such clause to the individual not later than 60 days after the date on which such individual elects continuation coverage under paragraph (1).

(15) PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO NOTIFY HEALTH PLAN OF CESSATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Part I of subchapter B of chapter 68 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 6720C. PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO NOTIFY HEALTH PLAN OF CESSATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUATION COVERAGE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of failure described in subsection (b) or (c), any person required to notify a group health plan under section 2(a)(2)(B) of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act who fails to make such a notification at such time and in such manner as the Secretary of Labor may require shall pay a penalty of \$250.

“(b) INTENTIONAL FAILURE.—In the case of any such failure that is fraudulent, such person shall pay a penalty equal to the greater of—

“(1) \$250, or

“(2) 110 percent of the premium assistance provided under section 2(a)(1)(A) of such Act after termination of eligibility under such section.

“(c) REASONABLE CAUSE EXCEPTION.—No penalty shall be imposed under this section with respect to any failure if it is shown that such failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.”.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of part I of subchapter B of chapter 68 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 6720C. Penalty for failure to notify health plan of cessation of eligibility for continuation coverage premium assistance.”.

(16) COORDINATION WITH HCTC.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 35(g)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(9) CONTINUATION COVERAGE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—In the case of an assistance eligible individual who receives premium assistance for continuation coverage under section 2(a)(1) of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act for any month during the taxable year, such individual shall not be treated as an eligible individual, a certified individual, or a qualifying family member for purposes of this section or section 7527 with respect to such month.”.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subparagraph (A) shall apply to taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(17) EXCLUSION OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FROM GROSS INCOME.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of

1986 is amended by inserting after section 139H the following new section:

"SEC. 139I. CONTINUATION COVERAGE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.

"In the case of an assistance eligible individual (as defined in subsection (a)(3) of section 2 of the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act), gross income does not include any premium assistance provided under subsection (a)(1) of such section."

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 139H the following new item:

"Sec. 139I. Continuation coverage premium assistance."

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this paragraph shall apply to taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(18) DEADLINES WITH RESPECT TO NOTICES.—Notwithstanding section 518 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1148) and section 7508A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of the Treasury, respectively, may not waive or extend any deadline with respect to the provision of notices described in paragraphs (7), (8), and (9).

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—In all matters of interpretation, rules, and operational procedures, the language of this section shall be interpreted broadly for the benefit of workers and their families.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 4718. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to make fraudulent dealings in firearms and ammunition unlawful, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to stop the fraudulent sales of guns online. While some technology companies have banned selling of firearms and ammunition on their websites, the problem persists.

For example, Facebook banned selling firearms. Nonetheless, between last April and June, it reportedly still had to remove 1.3 million pieces of content from its website that violated Facebook's terms of service related to gun sales.

In order to circumvent the terms of service, sellers are using new tactics, like misrepresenting guns as "stickers," to get around these restrictions.

An August 24, Wall Street Journal article explored how gun sellers are specifically using this new tactic on Facebook's Marketplace.

According to the article, sellers are using "a new tactic [that] involves posts purporting to sell stickers, alongside images of gun makers' logos."

However, when contacted, these sellers admitted that they're actually selling guns.

Even more troubling, the article said the recent "boom" in Americans buying guns "has been attributed to the new coronavirus pandemic, civil unrest related to the killing of George Floyd and efforts in some cities to defund the police."

As a result, there has been a recent spike in failed background checks.

Politico reported in July that: "The number of people trying to buy guns

who can't legally own them has skyrocketed."

For example, in February, the background check system blocked 9,700 sales.

In March, the system blocked 23,692 gun sales—more than double the previous month and the previous March.

The bill I'm introducing today addresses this problem by making it illegal for gun sellers to circumvent websites' terms of service as yet another way to avoid a background check.

It would make it a Federal crime to sell guns on websites like Facebook "by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations of promises." Doing so would be a felony with a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

I also want to thank Senator MENENDEZ for joining with me to introduce this legislation.

His efforts to keep technology companies accountable for the proliferation of firearms on their platforms has been vital in addressing the problem.

Our bill today is part of a larger effort that needs to be taken to stop the plague of gun violence hurting this country.

But I hope others will join us in this commonsense effort.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. REED):

S. 4732. A bill to conduct a study on the spread of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation on the internet and social media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act. I thank Representative JENNIFER WEXTON for working with me on this important piece of legislation, which will help shine a light on the ways social media and other online platforms amplify and spread misinformation and disinformation about the coronavirus pandemic to the detriment of public health.

Representative WEXTON was able to get the substance of this bill included in the HEROES Act, a bill passed four months ago by the House of Representatives to provide much needed relief to those suffering from the coronavirus pandemic and accompanying economic downturn. Because the Senate failed in its duty to pass the HEROES Act, I am introducing the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act with my colleagues—Senators BOOKER, BLUMENTHAL, KLOBUCHAR, WARREN, and REED.

As I stand here today nearly 7 million Americans have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and over 200,000 have died from the virus.

The numbers alone are staggering. But when you hear and read the personal stories of individuals and families who are suffering, it is truly tragic. It makes you mournful that for many of the individuals who died, they died alone in the absence of their loved ones.

While many things contributed to this massive loss of life, I am here to talk about one in particular: the insidious spread of coronavirus-related misinformation and disinformation online. This "infodemic" has undercut the efforts of public health officials at every turn, and threatens to prolong the virus's impact on the health of our people and economy long after a safe and effective vaccine is available.

The online spread of misinformation about public health is nothing new. Claims that the 2014 Ebola epidemic was a form of population control spread across social media. Anti-vaccination groups have long used Facebook and YouTube to share junk science and recruit new members.

However, social media platforms' response to coronavirus was supposed to be different. Early in the pandemic, the major social media platforms announced new measures to combat misinformation while making sure users had access to accurate, authoritative information about the virus. Facebook added a COVID-19 Information Center to the tops of users' News Feeds and announced it would remove misinformation that could contribute to imminent physical harm. Twitter verified accounts that provided credible updates on the pandemic and committed to removing false or misleading content that contradicted information from health authorities. YouTube began directing users who searched for COVID-related information to the WHO or other health authorities and banned false information contradicting health authorities on treatment, prevention, diagnosis, or transmission of COVID-19.

Unfortunately, these measures proved lacking and insufficient. The conspiracy film *Plandemic* was viewed more than 8 million times across social media platforms, and the sequel was viewed over 100,000 times on YouTube during its first week alone. A study by advocacy group Avaaz found that misinformation about vaccines and other health topics had been viewed an estimated 3.8 billion times on Facebook in the past year—four times more than factual, authoritative content from institutions like the WHO and CDC. The study also found that only 16% of previously fact-checked health misinformation on Facebook carried a warning label.

Spend even a small amount of time on the internet or social media and you will find rampant misinformation and conspiracy theories about COVID-19. Some examples of these falsehoods include: Bill Gates created the virus to use a vaccine as cover to implant microchips into Americans. No, actually, Dr. Fauci created the coronavirus

to seize political power. You shouldn't wear a mask to protect against the coronavirus, because wearing a mask actually weakens your immune system. And do not worry if you catch the corona virus—you can treat it by drinking bleach.

These claims might seem ridiculous, but they have real word consequences. A study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene found that 5,800 people had been hospitalized and at least 800 people died in the first three months of this year alone as a direct result of coronavirus-related misinformation. As recently as August, the Georgia Department of Health and the Texas Poison Control Center had to warn people not to drink bleach to treat COVID. While more Americans regularly wear masks in public, a recent poll found that 15% still do not. And, perhaps most troubling, polls suggest that between 35% and 50% of the U.S. population will not get a COVID vaccine when it is approved.

If we hope to get past the coronavirus and avoid similar public health crises in the future, we must understand where misinformation originates, how it spreads, and strategies to stop it.

This is exactly what the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act will do. It directs the National Science Foundation to partner with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on the spread of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation on the internet and social media platforms. This study will provide critical information on the roles disinformation and misinformation have played in the public response to COVID-19; the sources of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation and the ways it has influenced the public debate; the role social media plays in the disseminating and promoting this disinformation and misinformation; and potential strategies for combatting misinformation and disinformation in the future.

This information will not stop the next pandemic from coming. And, it will not force the next Administration to take it seriously and follow the advice of doctors and scientists. But it can give us the knowledge and tools necessary to avoid another infodemic and ensure the American public receives accurate and authoritative information when it is most needed.

I therefore encourage my colleagues to support the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 715—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida,

Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 715

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of religious freedom by the Founders, many of whom were deeply religious;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom of religion both through the free exercise thereof and by prohibiting the Government from establishing a religion;

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist Minister, and first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of the *Youth's Companion*;

Whereas, in 1954, Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas, for over 60 years, the Pledge of Allegiance has included references to the United States flag, to the country having been established as a union "under God", and to the country being dedicated to securing "liberty and justice for all";

Whereas, in 1954, Congress believed it was acting constitutionally when it revised the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas the Senate of the 116th Congress believes that the Pledge of Allegiance is a constitutional expression of patriotism;

Whereas patriotic songs, engravings on United States legal tender, and engravings on Federal buildings also contain general references to "God";

Whereas the Supreme Court overturned *Newdow v. United States Congress*, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003), a case in which the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by a student's public school teacher violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit later concluded that its previous opinion in *Newdow* was no longer binding precedent, that case law from the Supreme Court of the United States concerning the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States had subsequently changed, and that Congress, when passing the new version of the Pledge of Allegiance, established a secular purpose for the use of the terms "under God" and, thus, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by public school teachers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Pledge of Allegiance has been a valuable part of life for the people of the United States for generations; and

(2) the Senate strongly defends the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SENATE RESOLUTION 716—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 THROUGH OCTOBER 9, 2020, AS "MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Ms.

SINEMA, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 716

Whereas malnutrition is the condition that occurs when a person does not get enough protein, calories, or nutrients;

Whereas the 2020 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic (referred to in this preamble as the "2020 coronavirus pandemic")—

(1) has resulted in a significant increase in food insecurity, which is linked to malnutrition; and

(2) has nearly doubled food insufficiency rates since 2019;

Whereas the 2020 coronavirus pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on children, as 13,900,000 children live in a household characterized by child food insufficiency, and the rate of households with food insufficient children in 2020 was more than 5 times the rate of households with food insufficient children in 2019;

Whereas the impact of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic on the chronically ill has forced the examination of chronic disease prevention, especially through nutrient consumption and absorption, which is examined in the 2020-2030 Strategic Plan for NIH Nutrition Research published by the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas malnutrition is a significant problem in the United States and around the world, crossing all age, racial, class, gender, and geographic lines;

Whereas infants, older adults, people with chronic diseases, and other vulnerable populations are particularly at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics has found that failure to provide key nutrients during early childhood may result in lifelong deficits in brain function;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition affects between 30 and 50 percent of patients admitted to hospitals, and the medical costs of hospitalized patients with malnutrition can be 300 percent more than the medical costs of properly nourished patients;

Whereas, according to the National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update, as many as 1/2 of older adults living in the community are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition in older adults alone costs the United States more than \$51,300,000,000 each year; and

Whereas the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition established Malnutrition Awareness Week to raise awareness and promote prevention of malnutrition across the lifespan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 5 through October 9, 2020, as "Malnutrition Awareness Week";

(2) recognizes registered dietitian nutritionists and other nutrition professionals, health care providers, social workers, advocates, caregivers, and other professionals and agencies for their efforts to advance awareness, treatment, and prevention of malnutrition;

(3)(A) recognizes the importance of existing Federal nutrition programs for their role in combating malnutrition; and

(B) supports emergency funding for those critical Federal nutrition programs for the duration of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;

(4) recognizes—

(A) the importance of medical nutrition therapy under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); and

(B) the need for vulnerable populations to have access to nutrition counseling;

(5) recognizes the importance of the innovative research conducted by the National Institutes of Health on—

(A) nutrition, dietary patterns, and the human gastrointestinal microbiome; and

(B) how those factors influence the prevention or development of chronic disease throughout the lifespan; and

(6)(A) supports access to a malnutrition screening and assessment; and

(B) encourages the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to evaluate—

(i) the provision of a malnutrition screening and assessment through telehealth during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency; and

(ii) the adoption of malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures.

SENATE RESOLUTION 717—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2020, AS “NATIONAL ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY”, AND RAISING AWARENESS OF ATAXIA, ATAXIA RESEARCH, AND THE SEARCH FOR A CURE

Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 717

Whereas ataxia is a clinical manifestation indicating degeneration or dysfunction of the brain that negatively affects the coordination, precision, and accurate timing of physical movements;

Whereas ataxia can strike individuals of all ages, including children;

Whereas the term “ataxia” is used to classify a group of rare, inherited neurodegenerative diseases including—

- (1) ataxia telangiectasia;
- (2) episodic ataxia;
- (3) Friedreich’s ataxia; and
- (4) spinocerebellar ataxia;

Whereas there are many known types of genetic ataxia, but the genetic basis for ataxia in some patients is still unknown;

Whereas all inherited ataxias affect fewer than 200,000 individuals and, therefore, are recognized as rare diseases under the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049);

Whereas some genetic ataxias are inherited in an autosomal dominant manner, while others are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner;

Whereas ataxia symptoms can also be caused by noninherited health conditions and other factors, including stroke, tumor, cerebral palsy, head trauma, multiple sclerosis, alcohol abuse, and certain medications;

Whereas ataxia can present physical, psychological, and financial challenges for patients and their families;

Whereas symptoms and outcomes of ataxia progress at different rates and include—

- (1) lack of coordination;
- (2) slurred speech;
- (3) cardiomyopathy;
- (4) scoliosis;
- (5) eye movement abnormalities;
- (6) difficulty walking;
- (7) tremors;
- (8) trouble eating and swallowing;
- (9) difficulties with other activities that require fine motor skills; and

(10) death;

Whereas most patients with ataxia require the use of assistive devices, such as wheelchairs and walkers, to aid in their mobility, and many individuals may need physical and occupational therapy;

Whereas there is no treatment or cure approved by the Food and Drug Administration for ataxia; and

Whereas clinical research to develop safe and effective treatments for ataxia is ongoing: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the need for greater public awareness of ataxia;

(2) expresses support for the designation of September 25, 2020, as “National Ataxia Awareness Day”;;

(3) supports the goals of National Ataxia Awareness Day, which are—

(A) to raise awareness of the causes and symptoms of ataxia among the general public and health care professionals;

(B) to improve diagnosis of ataxia and access to care for patients affected by ataxia; and

(C) to accelerate ataxia research, including on safe and effective treatment options and, ultimately, a cure;

(4) acknowledges the challenges facing individuals in the United States who have ataxia and the families of those individuals; and

(5) encourages States, territories, and localities to support the goals of National Ataxia Awareness Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 718—RE-AFFIRMING THE SENATE’S COMMITMENT TO THE ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER CALLED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 718

Whereas the United States is founded on the principle that our Government derives its power from the consent of the governed and that the people have the right to change their elected leaders through elections;

Whereas our domestic tranquility, national security, general welfare, and civil liberties depend upon the peaceful and orderly transfer of power; and

Whereas any disruption occasioned by the transfer of the executive power could produce results detrimental to the safety and well-being of the United States and its people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States; and

(2) intends that there should be no disruptions by the President or any person in power to overturn the will of the people of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 719—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 22, 2020, AS “NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ

MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 719

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 22, 2020, as “National Voter Registration Day”; and

(2) encourages each voting-eligible citizen of the United States—

(A) to register to vote;

(B) to verify with the appropriate State or local election official that the name, address, and other personal information on record is current; and

(C) to cast a ballot in the election if the voting-eligible citizen would like to do so.

SENATE RESOLUTION 720—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 8, 2020, AS “NATIONAL HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL DAY”

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 720

Whereas hydrogen, which has an atomic mass of 1.008, is the most abundant element in the universe;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in the development and deployment of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies;

Whereas hydrogen fuel cells played an instrumental role in the United States space program, helping the United States achieve the mission of landing a man on the Moon;

Whereas private industry, Federal and State governments, national laboratories, and institutions of higher education continue to improve fuel cell and hydrogen technologies to address the most pressing energy, environmental, and economic issues of the United States;

Whereas fuel cells utilizing hydrogen and hydrogen-rich fuels to generate electricity are clean, efficient, safe, and resilient technologies being used for—

(1) stationary and backup power generation; and

(2) zero-emission transportation for light-duty vehicles, industrial vehicles, delivery vans, buses, trucks, trains, military vehicles, marine applications, and aerial vehicles;

Whereas stationary fuel cells are being placed in service for continuous and backup power to provide business and energy consumers with reliable power in the event of grid outages;

Whereas stationary fuel cells can help reduce water use, as compared to traditional power generation technologies;

Whereas fuel cell electric vehicles that utilize hydrogen can completely replicate the experience of internal combustion vehicles, including comparable range and refueling times;

Whereas hydrogen fuel cell industrial vehicles are being deployed at logistical hubs and warehouses across the United States and exported to facilities in Europe and Asia;

Whereas hydrogen is a nontoxic gas that can be derived from a variety of domestically available traditional and renewable resources, including solar, wind, biogas, and the abundant supply of natural gas in the United States;

Whereas hydrogen and fuel cells can store energy to help enhance the grid and maximize opportunities to deploy renewable energy;

Whereas the United States produces and uses approximately 10,000,000 metric tons of hydrogen per year;

Whereas engineers and safety code and standard professionals have developed consensus-based protocols for safe delivery, handling, and use of hydrogen; and

Whereas the ingenuity of the people of the United States is essential to paving the way for the future use of hydrogen technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates October 8, 2020, as “National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 721—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 18, 2020, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 721

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including from schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young individuals are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that individuals do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, institutions and individuals that influence youth must make conscientious efforts to help young individuals develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young individuals to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the

responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young individuals in the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of “National Character Counts Week”, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 18, 2020, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe National Character Counts Week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 722—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 722

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exoneration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical questions in civil and criminal investigations and trials in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the fourth week in September 2020 is recognized as “National Forensic Science Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; and

(2) recognizes that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) forensic science service providers to—

(i) acknowledge the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work;

(ii) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science;

(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic science service providers and the future demands that forensic science service providers will face; and

(iv) contact local media outlets and invite those groups to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week;

(B) local policymakers to—

(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) formally declare the fourth week of September 2020 to be “National Forensic Science Week” by proclamation;

(iii) visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and

(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories;

(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media, to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and

(iii) ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of local forensic science laboratories in the communities that those laboratories serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories;

(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and

(iv) engage with local forensic science laboratories about working together more effectively.

SENATE RESOLUTION 723—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS “CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 723

Whereas campus-related housing fires at colleges in Texas, Oregon, Illinois, Pennsylvania, other States, and Washington, D.C. have tragically cut the lives of several young individuals short;

Whereas, since January 2000, at least 175 individuals, including students, parents, and children, have died in campus-related fires;

Whereas approximately 87 percent of those campus-related fire deaths occurred in off-campus housing;

Whereas a majority of college students in the United States live in off-campus housing;

Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings in which the occupants had compromised or deactivated fire safety systems;

Whereas automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide early warning of a fire that is necessary for occupants of a building and the fire department to take appropriate action;

Whereas an automatic fire sprinkler system is a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of building occupants;

Whereas many college students live in off-campus housing, a fraternity or sorority

house, or a residence hall that is not adequately protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system, an automatic fire alarm system, or an adequate smoke alarm;

Whereas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, college students are taking more courses online and spending more time indoors, thus increasing the need for fire safety and prevention education;

Whereas fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas college students do not routinely receive effective fire safety education while in college;

Whereas educating young individuals in the United States about the importance of fire safety is vital to help ensure that young individuals engage in fire-safe behavior during college and after college; and

Whereas developing a generation of adults who practice fire safety may significantly reduce future loss of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2020 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”; and

(2) encourages administrators of institutions of higher education and municipalities across the United States—

(A) to provide educational programs about fire safety to all students of institutions of higher education in September and throughout the school year;

(B) to evaluate the level of fire safety provided in both on-campus and off-campus student housing; and

(C) to ensure fire-safe living environments through—

(i) fire safety education;

(ii) the installation of fire suppression and detection systems and smoke alarms; and

(iii) the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.

SENATE RESOLUTION 724—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE PRACTICE OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED IMPRISONMENT OF WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD AND CALLING ON GOVERNMENTS FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF WOMEN WHO ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 724

Whereas Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees the right to liberty and security of person, Article 9 protects against arbitrary arrest or detention, and Article 18 guarantees the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion;

Whereas women across the world face enormous risks to advance human rights and pursue progress for their communities, including—

(1) discriminatory policies and attitudes;

(2) repressive governments;

(3) abusive authorities; and

(4) critical threats to their health, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas women activists across the world are being unjustly detained in order to silence their voices and end their activism;

Whereas women journalists are being unjustly detained for speaking truth to power and exposing corruption and abuses by governments and other authorities;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic presents a severe threat to women who are detained unjustly and who are often housed in overcrowded prisons with limited access to medical care, which can convert unjust prison sentences into death sentences for vulnerable detained women;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has waged a brutal campaign to suppress political dissent and vibrant ethnic minority communities;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has suppressed and detained human rights legal professionals, including Li Yuhuan, who has been severely mistreated in detention and who went on a hunger strike in 2018;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has subjected Uyghurs in Xinjiang to mass surveillance, forced labor, forced birth control, forced sterilization, and extrajudicial internment, including—

(1) Rahile Dawut, a professor of traditional Uyghur culture;

(2) Gulmira Imin, a former website administrator and government employee; and

(3) Nigare Abdushukur, who was sentenced to 19 years imprisonment after inquiring about her mother's detention;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has targeted Tibetans for celebrating their heritage, including—

(1) Bonkho Kyi, who was detained for organizing a picnic celebration for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday; and

(2) Yeshe Choedron, who was sentenced in 2008 to 15 years imprisonment after participating in protests;

Whereas in Iran, human rights defenders have been steadfast in their advocacy despite repeated abuse and arrest by authorities, including currently detained human rights activists—

(1) Nasrin Sotoudeh, who spoke out against the death penalty and laws forcing women to wear hijabs and who is currently on a hunger strike and is in critical condition;

(2) Atena Daemi, a human rights activist who is serving an additional 2 years in prison and facing 74 lashes for participating in a peaceful sit-in protest in Evin prison; and

(3) Narges Mohammadi, vice president of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders, who has experienced severe health conditions and lung disease while in prison and has suffered from worsening COVID-19 symptoms since June 29, 2020;

Whereas Iranian authorities have also recently arrested and imprisoned environmentalists working for the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation, including Sepideh Kashami and McGill University graduate Niloufar Bayani, who previously worked for the United Nations Environment Programme;

Whereas Turkey is the world's second worst jailer of journalists, with 47 journalists imprisoned in 2019, including—

(1) Hatice Duman, owner and editor at Atilim, which published editorials condemning President Erdogan's policies; and

(2) Aysenur Parildak and Hanim Büsra Erdal, journalists for Zaman, which authorities claim has ties to Fethullah Gülen;

Whereas in Egypt, President Sisi has attempted to quash dissent by jailing and abusing human rights defenders, including—

(1) Mahienour el-Masry, a human rights lawyer accused of spreading “false news”;

(2) Esraa Abdel Fattah, a human rights activist and reporter who was reportedly beaten, hung from handcuffs, and choked with her clothes by authorities; and

(3) Sanaa Seif, who was detained while filing a complaint at the Public Prosecutor's office regarding her assault outside Cairo's Tora prison, which houses her brother, who is a political activist;

Whereas Burundian authorities arrested and convicted 4 journalists at Iwacu, Burun-

di's last remaining independent newspaper, including Christine Kamikazi and Agnès Ndirubusa, after a flawed trial, for allegedly attempting to undermine state security;

Whereas Saudi Arabian women's rights and human rights activists Loujain al-Hathloul, Nassima al-Sada, Samar Badawi, Nouf Abdulaziz, and Maya'a al-Zahrani all remain wrongfully imprisoned;

Whereas in the Philippines, Senator Leila de Lima remains unjustly imprisoned for her vocal criticism of extrajudicial killings carried out during President Duterte's “war on drugs”;

Whereas in Eritrea, political dissident Aster Fissehatsion has been held incommunicado without charge or trial since 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports women who are being unjustly detained around the world;

(2) affirms that a government should never detain its citizens for exercising the rights of freedom of assembly, association, and speech;

(3) calls on governments that are unjustly detaining women for exercising their fundamental rights to immediately and unconditionally release these political prisoners; and

(4) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with foreign governments—

(A) to raise individual cases of women political prisoners; and

(B) press for their immediate release.

SENATE RESOLUTION 725—ESTABLISHING THE SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. JONES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 725

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

(a) COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Senate the Senate Human Rights Commission (in this section referred to as the “Commission”).

(2) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

(A) serve as a forum for bipartisan discussion of international human rights issues and promotion of internationally recognized human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(B) raise awareness of international human rights violations through regular briefings and hearings; and

(C) collaborate with congressional committees and other congressional entities, the executive branch, human rights entities, and nongovernmental organizations to promote human rights initiatives within the Senate.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—The Commission shall not—

(A) have legislative jurisdiction;

(B) have authority to take legislative action on any bill or resolution; or

(C) encroach upon the jurisdiction of any standing, select, or special committee of the Senate.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—Any Senator may become a member of the Commission by submitting a written statement to that effect to the Commission.

(5) CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Two members of the Commission shall be appointed to serve as co-chairpersons of the Commission, as follows:

(i) One co-chairperson shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the majority leader of the Senate.

(ii) One co-chairperson shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the minority leader of the Senate.

(B) TERM.—The term of a member as a co-chairperson of the Commission shall end on the last day of the Congress during which the member is appointed as a co-chairperson, unless the member ceases being a member of the Senate, leaves the Commission, resigns from the position of co-chairperson, or is removed.

(C) PUBLICATION.—Appointments under this paragraph shall be printed in the Congressional Record.

(D) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the position of co-chairperson of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(b) COMMISSION STAFF.—

(1) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission is authorized, from funds made available under subsection (c), to—

(i) employ such staff in the manner and at a rate not to exceed that allowed for employees of a committee of the Senate under section 105(e)(3) of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1968 (2 U.S.C. 4575(e)(3)); and

(ii) incur such expenses as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out its duties and functions.

(B) EXPENSES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Payments made under this subsection for receptions, meals, and food-related expenses shall be authorized only for actual expenses incurred by the Commission in the course of conducting its official duties and functions.

(ii) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—Amounts received as reimbursement for expenses described in clause (i) shall not be reported as income, and the expenses so reimbursed shall not be allowed as a deduction under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(2) DESIGNATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each co-chairperson of the Commission may designate 1 professional staff member.

(B) COMPENSATION OF SENATE EMPLOYEES.—In the case of the compensation of any professional staff member designated under subparagraph (A) who is an employee of a Member of the Senate or of a committee of the Senate and who has been designated to perform services for the Commission, the professional staff member shall continue to be paid by the Member or committee, as the case may be, but the account from which the professional staff member is paid shall be reimbursed for the services of the professional staff member (including agency contributions when appropriate) out of funds made available under subsection (c).

(C) DUTIES.—Each professional staff member designated under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) serve all members of the Commission; and

(ii) carry out such other functions as the co-chairperson designating the professional staff member may specify.

(c) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The expenses of the Commission shall be paid from the Contingent Fund of the Senate, out of the account of Miscellaneous Items, upon vouchers approved jointly by the co-chairpersons (except that vouchers shall not be required for the disbursement of salaries of employees who are paid at an annual rate of pay).

(2) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.—For any fiscal year, not more than \$200,000 shall be expended for employees and expenses.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2660. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2661. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2662. Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mrs. LOEFFLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2663. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 8337, supra.

SA 2664. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2663 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 8337, supra.

SA 2665. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2666. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2667. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2668. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2669. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. SCHATZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2693, to improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2660. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in Division A, insert the following:

SEC. 1 _____. In addition to amounts provided in section 101, for "Department of Homeland Security—Protection, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund" there is appropriated \$86,600,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the amount provided herein is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

SA 2661. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

(c) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON REDUCTIONS IN AMTRAK OPERATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (commonly known as "Amtrak") may not institute any service cuts or furlough or terminate the employment of any employee (without cause) during the period beginning on October 1,

2020, and ending on the date specified in section 106.

SA 2662. Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mrs. LOEFFLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. No recipient, direct or indirect, of funds appropriated under this Act may use the funds to conduct, or enter into a contract for, a management or employee training program or other initiative that—

(1) segregates participants on the basis of race, sex, religion, or any other class enumerated under section 703 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-2);

(2) does not permit or encourage participants to challenge particular claims made in the course of such initiative; or

(3) advocates or promotes any or all of the following claims that are sometimes considered a part of "Critical Race Theory":

(A) One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex.

(B) The United States is fundamentally racist or sexist.

(C) An individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.

(D) An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's race or sex.

(E) Members of one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race or sex.

(F) An individual's moral character is necessarily determined by the individual's race or sex.

(G) An individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.

(H) Any individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of the individual's race or sex.

(I) Meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist, or were created by a particular race to oppress another race.

(J) Character traits, values, moral and ethical codes, privileges, status, or beliefs may be ascribed to a race or sex, or to an individual because of the individual's race or sex.

(K) Fault, blame, or bias may be attributed to a race or sex, or to members of a race or sex because of their race or sex.

(L) Consciously or unconsciously, and by virtue of their race or sex, members of any race are inherently racist or are inherently inclined to oppress others, or members of any sex are inherently sexist or are inherently inclined to oppress others.

SA 2663. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

SA 2664. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2663 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”

SA 2665. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment.”

SA 2666. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”

SA 2667. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect the day after the date of enactment.”

SA 2668. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8337, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “the day” and insert “two days”

SA 2669. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. SCHATZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2693, to improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Reliable Emergency Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2020” or “READI Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(2) the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission;

(3) the term “Emergency Alert System” means the national public warning system, the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

(4) the term “Wireless Emergency Alerts System” means the wireless national public warning system established under the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.), the rules for which are set forth in part 10 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

SEC. 3. WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS SYSTEM OFFERINGS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 602(b)(2)(E) of the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) by striking the second and third sentences; and

(2) by striking “other than an alert issued by the President.” and inserting the following: “other than an alert issued by—

“(i) the President; or

“(ii) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.”.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall adopt regulations to implement the amendment made by subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 4. STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “SECC” means a State Emergency Communications Committee;

(2) the term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States; and

(3) the term “State EAS Plan” means a State Emergency Alert System Plan, the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(b) STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall adopt regulations that—

(1) encourage the chief executive of each State—

(A) to establish an SECC if the State does not have an SECC; or

(B) if the State has an SECC, to review the composition and governance of the SECC;

(2) provide that—

(A) each SECC, not less frequently than annually, shall—

(i) meet to review and update its State EAS Plan;

(ii) certify to the Commission that the SECC has met as required under clause (i); and

(iii) submit to the Commission an updated State EAS Plan; and

(B) not later than 60 days after the date on which the Commission receives an updated State EAS Plan under subparagraph (A)(iii), the Commission shall—

(i) approve or disapprove the updated State EAS Plan; and

(ii) notify the chief executive of the State of the Commission’s findings; and

(3) establish a State EAS Plan content checklist for SECCs to use when reviewing and updating a State EAS Plan for submission to the Commission under paragraph (2)(A).

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Commission shall consult with the Administrator regarding the adoption of regulations under subsection (b)(3).

SEC. 5. FALSE ALERT REPORTING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to establish a system to receive from the Administrator or State, Tribal, or local governments reports of false alerts under the Emergency Alert System or the Wireless Emergency Alerts System for the purpose of recording such false alerts and examining their causes.

SEC. 6. REPEATING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MESSAGES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to modify the Emergency Alert System to provide for repeating Emergency Alert System messages while an alert remains pending that is issued by—

(1) the President;

(2) the Administrator; or

(3) any other entity under specified circumstances as determined by the Commis-

sion, in consultation with the Administrator.

(b) SCOPE OF RULEMAKING.—Subsection (a)—

(1) shall apply to warnings of national security events, meaning emergencies of national significance, such as a missile threat, terror attack, or other act of war; and

(2) shall not apply to more typical warnings, such as a weather alert, AMBER Alert, or disaster alert.

SEC. 7. INTERNET AND ONLINE STREAMING SERVICES EMERGENCY ALERT EXAMINATION.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and after providing public notice and opportunity for comment, the Commission shall complete an inquiry to examine the feasibility of updating the Emergency Alert System to enable or improve alerts to consumers provided through the internet, including through streaming services.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after completing the inquiry under subsection (a), the Commission shall submit a report on the findings and conclusions of the inquiry to—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 9 a.m. to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND THE INTERNET

The Subcommittee on Communication, Technology, Innovation, and The Internet of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 719, S. Res. 720, S. Res. 721, S. Res. 722, and S. Res. 723.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolutions, en bloc?

The resolution (S. Res. 719) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolutions (S. Res. 720, S. Res. 721, S. Res. 722, and S. Res. 723) were agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preambles were agreed to.
(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

VET CENTER ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1812, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1812) to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1812) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VETERANS' CARE QUALITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2372, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill the title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2372) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2372) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RELIABLE EMERGENCY ALERT DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 492, S. 2693.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2693) to improve oversight by the Federal Communications Commission of the wireless and broadcast emergency alert systems.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask that the Schatz substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2669) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reliable Emergency Alert Distribution Improvement Act of 2020" or "READI Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(2) the term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission;

(3) the term "Emergency Alert System" means the national public warning system,

the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

(4) the term "Wireless Emergency Alerts System" means the wireless national public warning system established under the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.), the rules for which are set forth in part 10 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

SEC. 3. WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS SYSTEM OFFERINGS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 602(b)(2)(E) of the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201(b)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) by striking the second and third sentences; and

(2) by striking "other than an alert issued by the President." and inserting the following: "other than an alert issued by—

"(i) the President; or

"(ii) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.".

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall adopt regulations to implement the amendment made by subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 4. STATE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLANS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "SECC" means a State Emergency Communications Committee;

(2) the term "State" means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States; and

(3) the term "State EAS Plan" means a State Emergency Alert System Plan, the rules for which are set forth in part 11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(b) STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall adopt regulations that—

(1) encourage the chief executive of each State—

(A) to establish an SECC if the State does not have an SECC; or

(B) if the State has an SECC, to review the composition and governance of the SECC;

(2) provide that—

(A) each SECC, not less frequently than annually, shall—

(i) meet to review and update its State EAS Plan;

(ii) certify to the Commission that the SECC has met as required under clause (i); and

(iii) submit to the Commission an updated State EAS Plan; and

(B) not later than 60 days after the date on which the Commission receives an updated State EAS Plan under subparagraph (A)(iii), the Commission shall—

(i) approve or disapprove the updated State EAS Plan; and

(ii) notify the chief executive of the State of the Commission's findings; and

(3) establish a State EAS Plan content checklist for SECCs to use when reviewing and updating a State EAS Plan for submission to the Commission under paragraph (2)(A).

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Commission shall consult with the Administrator regarding the adoption of regulations under subsection (b)(3).

SEC. 5. FALSE ALERT REPORTING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to establish a system to receive from the Administrator or State, Tribal, or local governments reports of false alerts under the Emergency Alert System or the Wireless Emergency Alerts System for the purpose of recording such false alerts and examining their causes.

SEC. 6. REPEATING EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MESSAGES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to modify the Emergency Alert System to provide for repeating Emergency Alert System messages while an alert remains pending that is issued by—

- (1) the President;
- (2) the Administrator; or
- (3) any other entity under specified circumstances as determined by the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator.

(b) SCOPE OF RULEMAKING.—Subsection (a)—

(1) shall apply to warnings of national security events, meaning emergencies of national significance, such as a missile threat, terror attack, or other act of war; and

(2) shall not apply to more typical warnings, such as a weather alert, AMBER Alert, or disaster alert.

SEC. 7. INTERNET AND ONLINE STREAMING SERVICES EMERGENCY ALERT EXAMINATION.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and after providing public notice and opportunity for comment, the Commission shall complete an inquiry to examine the feasibility of updating the Emergency Alert System to enable or improve alerts to consumers provided through the internet, including through streaming services.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after completing the inquiry under subsection (a), the Commission shall submit a report on the findings and conclusions of the inquiry to—

- (1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and
- (2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

The bill (S. 2693), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be dis-

charged from further consideration of H.R. 6168 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6168) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2020, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6168) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4675

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4675) to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020, THROUGH TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted on Monday, September 28, at 2:45 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, September 28, it next convene at 3 p.m., Tuesday, September 29; that following the pray-

er and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business being closed; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 8337; further, that with respect to the cloture motion filed during today's session of the Senate, the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments be 4 p.m.; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motion filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020, AT 2:45 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:22 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 28, 2020, at 2:45 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. SEAN K. TYLER

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. PAUL S. LYMAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. GUY M. JONES
COL. CHARLES R. PARKER

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 24, 2020:

THE JUDICIARY

RODERICK C. YOUNG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA.